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Brazil

In a report carried by Sao Paulo TV, Ibsen Pinheiro, president of the Chamber of Deputies, announced the final tally of the vote to impeach President Fernando Collor: "Deputies, there have been 23 absences, one abstention, 38 no votes, and 441 yes votes. The request for impeachment has been approved." The Chamber's decision will now be reported to the Senate. Rio de Janeiro TV notes that the government leader in the Chamber, Deputy Jose Lourenco, admitted that the government has been "defeated," and that tomorrow he will be "in the opposition." Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, in an interview with Rio de Janeiro TV, commented on the overwhelming margin of yes votes, calling the result "a real massacre."

According to an interview carried by Rio de Janeiro TV, Mauro Benevides, president of the Senate, stated that the Senate will elect 21 members to the committee that will try President Collor.

After the Chamber's session ended, Brasilia Radio interviewed Justice Minister Borja and Presidential Spokesman Dias. Borja emphasized that President Collor wants to "ensure that the Constitution and the laws are complied with," and that he "is committed to facilitating the transition process." Borja also stated that concerning the possibility of Collor's resigning, "this word has not been mentioned." The radio adds that although all Cabinet ministers have offered their resignations, Vice President Franco, the acting president, has asked them to remain at their posts until a new cabinet is named. Dias said that Collor has not decided if he will address the nation or write a letter.

In another development, Lafayette Coutinho, president of the Bank of Brazil, and Alvar Mendonca, president of the Federal Savings Bank, offered their resignations to President Collor, reports Rio de Janeiro TV.

Cuba

GRANMA Editorial on Torricelli Bill

FL2909141692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1043 GMT 29 Sep 92

[GRANMA 29 September editorial: "Not Even a Thousand Laws Like This Will Make Us Kneel Down"]

[Text] According to all indications, Bush's signature within the next few hours can transform into law and official U.S. Government policy the legal monstrosity of interference known as the Torricelli Bill. The path of this freakish creation has been devious. Its paternity cannot be attributed solely to the equivocal, opportunistic politico from New Jersey who has tried to build a career by cultivating the most reactionary and fascist elements of the counterrevolutionary Cuban exile community [la gusanera contrarrevolucionaria]. What is certain is that the original proposal of Robert Torricelli and his Miami godfathers has been molded and adjusted to the administration's current anti-Cuban policy. What is on the verge of being signed today is above all Bush's law, resulting from his desperation to use anything to feed the flames of the November election campaign.

However, it would be erroneous to interpret this step as merely an episode typical of the circus which the contest for the White House has become. In this law there are elements of an extemely dangerous escalation, which can be understood only in light of the frustration and rage with which U.S. governing circles are witnessing the fact that the Cuban Revolution is continuing, and will continue, with its independence, its own policies and social justice, very much in spite of the collapse of European socialism, the disintegration of the USSR, the transformation of some of the remnants of that great power into Yankee allies, the abandonment of Cuba to its own fate, the double embargo, the worsening of our country's material difficulties, and all the intensified and increasing efforts by the U.S. Government itself to create the maximum number of obstacles for us, and to encourage subversion against the Cuban regime.

The counterrevolutionary law indicates that the empire's only enemy today seems to be a free, revolutionary, sovereign Cuba. This law has laid bare the Yankee desire to use any means, even that of annihilating our people through hunger—if that were possible—to destroy the Revolution. This is obvious, since the arguments the United States upheld in the past to excuse its pressures no longer exist, and the fact that the Revolution and socialism are sustained in Cuba on the sole basis of the people's support and the exercise of self-determination cannot be hidden.

Setting aside the twisted rhetoric and the ridiculous carrot the law attempts to flourish in its humanitarian aspects, the reality is that we are facing a big stick that is being cynically and cruelly raised against our elderly and children, against our ill, against the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the population, and against the entire Cuban people in general, who only with economic stabilization and the country's development could have the resources—now scarce—for food, medicine, and other goods we need.

Bush has ignored all the voices and cast aside any argument that did not agree with the most anti-Cuban and retrograde extreme right. With this law, the Bush government is encouraging the false view that the United States, as in 1898 when it unscrupulously intervened in our war for independence, acts in the face of internal Cuban problems, the solution to which should be supported from outside through a strengthening of the economic embargo and other measures into which it tries to drag the other countries.

Cuba is certainly experiencing a time of economic crisis, the immediate cause of which is the collapse of our allies and the brutal Yankee embargo which has become much more cruel and harmful with the disappearance of the socialist bloc. However, there is not the slightest symptom of internal political crisis, which in any case would have to be resolved by Cubans. There is no more stable society in this empire than ours. There is no government that has more popular support. We are an institutionalized country governed by laws. We certainly do not have to accept any model of democracy that the United States tries to impose on us, and would certainly not permit that country jurisdiction over our affairs.

Who has given the Yankee rulers these powers? Who do they think they are? Who do they think they are dealing with? What is being aired here is the external conflict between the Cuban people, who created their revolution and gave themselves the freedom and justice that the empire and its neocolonial system had taken away from them, and the U.S. Government, which for 33 years has exhausted its entire arsenal of attacks to destroy Cuba, including the illegal and unusual economic embargo which, according to still incomplete calculations, has cost our country tens of billions of dollars.

By ratifying this law, the U.S. Congress and executive branch are behaving like a kind of planetary government with extraterritorial and supranational rights. The bitter outcome of the catastrophe that has taken place in the world seldom has been seen so clearly. It is even surprising to see the contempt, lack of consideration, and abusiveness with which the Yankees treat their own allies. The law seeks to extend and make mandatory for the entire international community the embargo against Cuba. The blackmail is brutal, in fact. Countries that trade with Cuba or maintain what the law calls aid—that is, normal economic relations covered by international legislation—will be classified as countries that help Cuba, and thus will be subject to sanctions by the U.S. President.

The reprisals at the disposal of the emperor against the government to be punished include the exclusion from foreign aid programs, free trade agreements, and cancellation or reduction of debts contracted with the U.S. Government. Other ways to reinforce the economic siege

include banning affiliates or subsidiaries of U.S. companies in third countries from negotiating with Cuba, prohibiting ships that stop in Cuban ports for trade or service from entering U.S. ports for six months, and additional restrictions on sending money from the United States to Cuban citizens who travel to that country.

It is obvious that these measures can further complicate our situation. Its principal blade is aimed at cutting off trade in food, medicines, and other vital supplies at a time when the country is struggling alone and with few resources. Nevertheless, the U.S. economic siege of Cuba is already so impenetrable that it would be unlikely that any further action of this kind could make it any worse, although it is still bad. The United States cannot run the world completely at its whim, and we will not stop working and struggling.

It remains to be seen whether powerful nations such as France and Great Britain, which expressly and publicly condemned the possible ratification of this political and legal barbarity, will be in a position to accept the mutilation of their sovereignty implicit in this law. It remains to be seen whether Canada and Mexico, countries that have just concluded a free trade treaty with the United States, and which at the same time are important trade partners with Cuba, will allow this intemperate language of threats and sanctions.

It remains to be seen whether there is any Latin American government that esteems national dignity and decency at all, or whether they are willing to yield to outright coercion and the weakening of their rights involved in this legislation, and to shoulder responsibility for the terrible precedent it would set for the future of all of our countries. It remains to be seen how the nonaligned countries will react to an action that represents the most savage negation of the principles of equity and respect they defend. It remains to be seen what the attitude of the EC and other industrialized countries in the world will be in the face of this policy of virtual reprisal for the exercise of ordinary, legitimate trade relations. It remains to be seen whether now, witnessing this action, any doubt remains among the member-states of the international community as to the justice of Cuba's stand in denouncing to the UN General Assembly as an illicit, unjustifiable, and criminal action the economic embargo that has been conducted by the United States against our island for more than three decades.

Our party and government have a duty to interpret the true scope of this event and to alert and prepare the people for what may result from it. All our experience with the unscrupulous behavior of the empire, all the lessons learned from the Yankees' most recent unipolar drunken binge, show us that the counterrevolutionary law, in fact, may be the preamble to a direct attack in any form, including the already familiar variation of intervention for humanitarian purposes.

We cannot rule out such a possibility, since we are dealing with a government that acts as if it owns the world, which sets its own limits for international behavior, and whose policy towards Cuba is increasingly dictated by resentment, powerlessness, and uneasiness about its inability to achieve its counterrevolutionary goals. Now more than ever, we will have to increase our defense preparation and ensure that any military attack on Cuba will result in a terrible cost that the invader will not be able to pay.

The U.S. rulers should again be aware that no step of that kind will move us one millimeter from our revolutionary position. Likewise, nothing they may do will stop us from performing the essential tasks we are working on today. Calmly and decisively, we will continue to do what we have to do. The empire's arrogance and brazenness have a limit, even during this bitter, shameful time we are experiencing, and this limit is the Cubans' spirit of resistance, patriotism, high morale, and unbreakable unity and dignity.

Neither will we sit idly by in the face of these attacks. We will respond to them in an appropriate way. If Bush thinks that he can impose the law of the jungle against Cuba with impunity, we will take care to make that rash and irresponsible policy fail. Neither this law, nor a thousand laws like it, will make us kneel down. We will defend the nation, independence, justice, and the revolutionary accomplishments that give meaning to our people's lives. There will be no surrender here. There will be no retreat here. There will be no return to the past here. There will be no chaos, revenge, or political or moral breakdown here as in the countries where socialism was killed by being stabbed in the back.

The United States, imperialism, capitalism, and the counterrevolutionary Cuban exile community have been defeated in Cuba, and they will never get a second chance.

CTC Statement Condemning Bill

FL3009023992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Statement issued by the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, on 29 September; place not given; read by Pedro Ross Leal, CTC secretary general and Politburo member—recorded]

[Text] Imperialism is getting ready to implement new measures designed to stop Cuba from obtaining essential supplies through normal trade with third countries to meet basic needs, particularly, to increase and maintain the health of the Cuban people. Following the collapse of socialism in Europe and the disappearance of the USSR, U.S. leaders have done everything in their power to strangle the Cuban nation by intensifying their criminal embargo which is by itself the most severe embargo the United States has ever implemented against any other country in the world. Now, due to the measures comprised in the Torricelli Bill, we will have to confront an intensification in the policy of hostility and economic choke as the empire tries to wring us even more with all its unipolar might.

In their meddling frenzy, they plan to give themselves the power, as a world bully, to sanction countries giving assistance or engaging in trade with Cuba, to prohibit ties with Cuba to U.S. companies' subsidiaries in third countries, and to punish any vessel entering Cuban ports, or transporting cargo or passengers, to or from Cuba, by banning their access to U.S. port for 180 days.

There is no legal or moral justification for so much contempt toward human life. Overruling international legal norms and the increasing rejection of the international community to this inconceivable precedent which even effects the interests of some of the U.S. closest allies who believe that the Torricelli Bill's measures are unacceptable and inappropriate as well as totally unjustified in legal and political terms, U.S. leaders plan to give the green light to their arrogant goals in a vain attempt to prompt the internal collapse of the Revolution. These coercive measures respond to the same Yankee hegemonic goals which attempted to dissect Cuba's patriotic and autonomous yearnings in the previous century when imperialist interventionism culminated with the despised Platt Ammendment. That history will never be repeated, as long as a single present-day Cuban patriot has any life left in him.

The Cuban workers are not going to be frightened by this infamous attempt by the United States. During the last 30 years, we have learned to raise ourselves to this challenge, we learned how to use our mechanisms against the embargo. We are not defenseless. Our hands, our own strength have the real potential to confront this new attack. For this, we have a strategy which has undeniable solutions toward the total political and economic independence of Cuba. No new threat, no pressure is going to take away our right to decide our own future. What we will do is to entrench deeper and better our efforts in what we are doing to make the country move forward; seek more efficiency, more discipline; increase those tasks that will allow us to produce more export products; consolidate our food program efforts; guarantee a good sugarcane harvest; devote ourselves in all spheres to raise ourselves to the height required by this extraordinary time that we are living.

This new aggression does not find us resigned, does not find us grieving. We will confront it with the dignity, pride, courage, and the collective wisdom and intelligence of a people engaged in a revolution. As Fidel said: We are going to fight! We are going to resist! We are never going to surrender and the empire will have to deal with Cuban revolutionary workers for a long time to come.

FEU President Attacks Bill

FL3009123892 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] A statement by Cuban students and young people condemning the Torricelli Bill was made public on 29 September at a well-attended rally held at the historic University of Havana.

[Begin recording of Carmen Rosa Baez, president of the Federation of University Students, FEU] Only under the conditions of a world governed by the most sophisticated hegemony that humanity has known can supposedly respectable politicians in a civilized nation approve a law aimed at making a people that lives from its work surrender through hunger, a people that they have not been able to defeat on any other terrain. [end recording]

That is FEU President Carmen Rosa Baez.

[Begin Baez recording] The Torricelli bill is thus another Platt Amendment, all the more inhumane the more modern the empire that has issued it; the more aggressive, the more resistant we have been to the collapses and apocalypses in other parts of the universe; the more offensive to other nations, the more the empire feels that it owns the world. Like our parents and grandparents, today it falls to us, the new generation of Cubans, to rise up against this new blow against our nation, this new invasion against our abilities and efforts.

History expects us to, because the country [words indistinct] this government will not surrender or sell out. Let us show an even tougher side so that the bold [word indistinct] will be released. We call on the young people of the world, of all the nations of the earth, to rise up against this law which also robs them of sovereignty and independence. Let us answer again like Marti: There are nations of bats, and there are [words indistinct] bats in every nation, that live in the shadows and smile at the shadows. But it is vain to try to close the door on this beautiful light that shines through walls.

Are we going to kneel down like beggars for a piece of bread? [crowd answers: "No!"] Does the Torricelli Bill frighten us? [crowd answers: "No!"] Then shall we follow the only one, the one who knew how to guide our parents, the one who made our grandparents' dreams come true? Then shall we follow our commander in chief? [crowd answers: "Yes!"] Let those students and young people who agree with this statement by the Cuban youth raise their hands. It has been approved. Let us shout once more the two words that mean everything in our lives: one, the name of our leader; two, the name of our country. Fidel, Cuba! Fidel, Cuba! Fidel, Cuba! [end recording]

* Agriculture Research Institute Discussed

92CA0218A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 35, 28 Aug 92 pp 36-37

[Article by Pedro Morales]

[Text] Adolfo Rodriguez, director of the Institute for Basic Research in Tropical Agriculture (INIFAT) and member of the Party Central Committee, is sitting at my right in one of the comfortable rooms of the almost century-old building in Santiago de las Vegas. We have a conversation with him about the activities of the institution that he so ably directs.

[Morales] What is the state of agricultural research, and how much is left to accomplish?

[Rodriguez] I do not think we are very far behind the most advanced nations in Latin America, or even other developed countries, in this area; but there is no doubt that we still have a long way to go, especially when it comes to putting the results of our research to work in actual production. Here we have run into bureaucratic stumbling blocks that have slowed down the process.

"The country has a foundation, a longstanding tradition in agricultural exploration, which is now being reaffirmed thanks to the unprecedented official support that enabled us to expand our human and material resources considerably.

"And if we want to talk about accomplishments, the list would fill several volumes. In recent times, for example, we can cite gangplowing [multiarado] (a veritable revolution in agriculture) and the technology developed around it for the purpose of working the soil as little as possible.

"Then there is the long list of new varieties of tubers, grains, vegetables, and fruits that are better adapted to tropical conditions, higher yielding, and more resistant to pests and disease."

Along these lines, Rodriguez also mentions the technologies intended for the biological battle against the enemies of farm crops, and the fertilization and improvement of soils using natural elements, with a minimum application of chemicals. "Some of these successes," says the INIFAT director, "will turn out to be very significant in the long run. That is true, for example, of the application of azotobacter as a nitrogen fixer. It was already known in other countries, but Cuba is the first country to use it in large-scale production and with specific layers designated for specific crops."

Straight to the Point

Rodriguez believes that the incorporation of these scientific-agricultural achievements into production, although it is progressing more or less satisfactorily, could be more efficient.

"And with simpler forms of application," he adds, "without the bureaucracy being involved. In that regard, the so-called demonstration areas are ideal. As soon as we get a result, we take it to a business or production cooperative, show it to them, and implement it, without any other type of intermediary. Make no mistake about it: If we do it well, the producers take to it immediately."

That does not preclude the continuing role of the national commissions that have been established for applying such achievements, notes the interviewee, "...but the research centers must be bold and quick in this facet of the work as well," he says.

Profile of INIFAT

Heir to the Agricultural Experimental Station of Santiago de las Vegas (founded in 1904), the INIFAT can boast of a long list of scientific achievements in a wide variety of agricultural fields.

Until a short time ago, the institution worked primarily on studies related to produce and grains, but recently it has begun researching tubers and additional fruits.

"We give priority to plant improvement here," says Rodriguez, "because that is very important for the country. We use every means possible for that purpose, ranging from classic selection to the use of biotechnology. We do not replace one plant improvement methodology with another, but rather make them complement each other. Just because we have developed modern biotechnological methods does not mean we can abandon selection and hybridization."

The INIFAT places a great deal of emphasis on the genetic improvement of plants, seeking greater disease resistance, higher yields, and earlier maturity.

In connection with this interest, the INIFAT has the most important collection of genetic resources from farm crops in the country, with some 4,400 samples. One of its objectives is to multiply that figure several times. Another important line of work has to do with the development of bioactive products, not just for the purpose of determining the effectiveness of existing ones, but also for producing them.

"The country has an urgent need to expand the availability of organic preparations that can be used against insects, fungi, and even weeds. This will enable it to develop a less pollutive farm sector and at the same time save money on the purchase of pesticides and herbicides.

"And these are some of the methods, the ways that the institution has focused on for contributing effectively to the development of the food program that has been established for the country. Research plays a key role in this project, and what we have here is a kind of race against the clock, in which we are certainly not running behind."

[Box, p 37]

Another Miracle of Science

Among the accomplishments that are opening up great possibilities for development in Cuba are those in the area of organic fertilizers, especially the one known as azotobacter. This is a bacteria that is obtained by fermenting different nutritional elements.

It is sprayed or sprinkled on 24 hours before planting, and it has yielded excellent results on crops such as garlic, onions, peppers, cabbage, and lettuce.

The essential advantages of this fertilizer are that it ensures a high rate of germination, robust plant development, minimal dropping of blossoms, better fruition,

and higher quality fruit. Neither a toxic nor a pollutant, it is harmless to both man and the environment.

One can get a clear idea of how important the large-scale application of this product could be to Cuban agriculture by looking at some preliminary results from experimental areas in various provinces: At a farm in Sancti Spiritus, a yield of up to 6,000 quintals of onions per caballeria was obtained by using it; where the product was not used, the yield was only 3,800.

In Matanzas, more than 6,000 quintals of tomatoes was obtained per caballeria, 28 percent more than when the crop was planted without azotobacter. In Villa Clara, cabbage production nearly doubled.

The product is currently made in the fermenters at the rum plant in Santa Cruz (in Havana) and in the torula plant at Antonio Guiteras in Victoria de Las Tunas. As other industries in the country begin using it, the initial annual figure of 1 million liters may be surpassed, and thus the prospects for this organic fertilizer will improve.

*** Produce Delivery to Market Streamlined**

92CA0218C Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 23 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] The Miscellaneous Produce Enterprises of Melena del Sur and Batabano this month began bringing their products directly to the central markets in the capital.

This measure bypasses the municipal warehouse in the transportation chain for the purpose of streamlining the delivery of produce to consumers in the capital and cutting down losses due to excess handling of the food.

Each enterprise has nine trucks for this transportation. The state producers of Melena del Sur and Batabano will send their goods on these trucks to the central markets of Ocho Vias and El Trigal in Arroyo Naranjo.

It should be noted that the shipments are weighed and inspected for quality control at these collection centers. Frequently, the trucks deliver the produce to selected *placitas* [small open-air marketplaces] and produce markets in Havana.

For example, the Miscellaneous Produce Enterprise of Melena del Sur, through the Ocho Vias central market, will serve the municipal districts of Downtown Havana, Old Havana, Plaza de la Revolucion, and San Miguel del Padron.

The producers in Batabano will do the same for the municipal districts of Diez de Octubre, Arroyo Naranjo, and Cerro.

Another advantage of this system is that it allows the producing enterprises to concentrate their fleet of vehicles where it is most needed to bring the harvest to the capital. Having their own transport base makes for greater efficiency.

*** Economic Difficulties, Gains Reviewed**

92CA0218D Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 17 Aug 92 p 2

[Article by Renato Recio]

[Text] The year 1992 is often described as the toughest year of the special period. It is not hard to imagine that this is true, considering that the Cuban economy this year has only 40 percent of the imports that used to come regularly to the country.

Moreover, this year we have seen the intensification of what has come to be known as the double blockade, in which any remaining credits and prices previously agreed to have been completely eliminated and Cuba has had to conduct all trade at international market prices.

Not only that, but the traumatic changes that have befallen the former socialist community have turned most of those countries into net importers of many goods that they used to export, or that they produced in sufficient quantities to meet their own needs. Sheltered by Western credit, today they are bursting onto the market as buyers, which drives up the prices of countless products.

The rise in prices on the world market as a consequence of the debacle of European socialism is just one more hardship for the Cuban economy, which for decades was governed by different terms of trade. The reciprocity of the past has not only disappeared, but in doing so it has sharpened the talons of the often denounced unequal terms of trade.

Sugar, by far the country's most important export, is now subject exclusively to the permanently depressed prices of a so-called world market, which in fact is a surplus market where sugar is sold in the absence of prior agreements on quotas or favorable prices.

Meanwhile, oil, that indispensable product that weighs heavily on Cuba's import bill, is still at the same monopoly price or even higher. Thus we have the absurd situation that if Cuba wanted to maintain its previous levels of energy consumption, it would have to devote all of its sugar earnings to fuel purchases. The 1992 sugar harvest had to be carried out with 30 percent of the resources used before. The fact that we were successful under such circumstances, something that would have been impossible without an intensive and sustained effort by tens of thousands of workers, speaks eloquently of the Cuban economy's stamina. But stamina alone would not be enough to get out of the critical supply shortage that plagues the country's economy and subjects the citizenry to major deprivation and sacrifice.

It is imperative that the Cuban economy maintain its capacity for development so that it can survive this hand-to-mouth phase. And that capacity, declared politburo member Carlos Lage two months ago, has not been lost, considering a number of trends that have been studied.

The Cuban economy's development capacity can be summed up as the increase in the quantity, quality, and diversity of our exports, the growth of our foreign currency reserves, and the bolstering of the domestic economy.

The combination of these factors, plus many others, of course, is what will enable us to make full use of the country's undeniable production potential, which is in a depressed state today.

As we enter the second half of the year, we see a continuation of the trend toward significantly increasing tourism and the resultant hard currency earnings. Nickel production is on the rise as well, and the important process of assimilating foreign capital, technologies, and markets has progressed modestly but steadily despite the extraordinary pressure exerted by the U.S. Government on any businessman who dares to approach Cuba.

On the other hand, in the state agriculture and cooperative sectors, we continue to see increases in fruit and vegetable production, which has helped offset the shortage or absence of many farm products that the country used to import.

The same cannot be said of milk and meat production, because livestock production, hit hard by feed shortages, has reported sharp declines in nearly every technical-economic indicator. As yet there is no sign of the necessary recovery.

Livestock is now being put out to pasture rather than receiving commercial feed, which entails a drastic and far-reaching change in production technology, including the genetic makeup of the herd.

It is reasonable to assume, however, that the successes already achieved in certain units and regions of the country will gradually spread until there is a reversal of the decline in national livestock production.

The process whereby science and technology are becoming key elements in the economy is maintaining its surprising pace, and offers real possibilities for modernizing agriculture, improving industrial technology, and developing high-value exports. Successful achievements in the field of biotechnology and the existence of a powerful movement of innovators and efficiency experts prove that Cuban science is a national mainstay and a pivot for development.

Many believe that too much money in circulation, coupled with too few goods, is the most visible symptom of Cuba's economic problems.

However, in view of the tremendous shortage of resources that has suddenly befallen the country due to circumstances beyond its control, the Cuban state opted not to employ a shock policy. This would have left hundreds of thousands of workers and their families out in the cold and would have abandoned social accomplishments such as education and health, which are an essential part of the citizens' standard of living.

An antishock policy, which leaves no one unprotected and distributes necessities among everyone, was the way Cuba chose to deal with the difficult economic situation. It accepted the challenge of maintaining the population's income at levels that by far exceed the supply of goods.

The development of territorial self-management, most notably in provinces such as Las Tunas and Cienfuegos, is relevant to this point. The application of local formulas to seek and find economic and rational solutions is blazing a new but promising trail toward meeting product and service needs in ways that take into account the circumstances, resources, and possibilities of each place while eliminating the excessive amount of money in circulation.

We have mentioned only a few of the elements that highlight Cuba's development capacity, but this does not mean that 1992 is a period of economic recovery for Cuba.

In addition to the concerns that are only natural in the present situation, however, we must evaluate the factors that suggest vitality and future prospects. These factors prove that we have chosen the proper strategy, the only possible solution under our circumstances, thanks to the wisdom and tenacity of the revolutionary leadership.

Without sacrificing its sovereignty or betraying the political will of its people, Cuba is finding the proper place for itself in the much-changed international context.

The struggle to regain previous economic levels, which naturally includes the subsequent surpassing of those levels, will not be an easy task for Cubans. But have we ever chosen a simple task for ourselves?

* Education Minister on Agricultural Labor

92CA0218B Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 31 Aug 92 pp 4, 5

[Interview with Minister of Education Luis Ignacio Gomez Gutierrez by Edda Diz Garces at the Ministry of Education; date not given; first paragraph is TRABAJADORES introduction]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In his unpretentious office at the headquarters of the Ministry of Education (Mined)—where the climb up the steep stairs and the lack of air-conditioning double the temperature—Dr. Luis Ignacio Gomez Gutierrez, head of the Mined and the man responsible for this task affecting most Cuban families, spent nearly three hours patiently answering our questions on the school year that is just beginning. [passage omitted]

[Diz] What are the Mined's main priorities?

[Gomez] Our first priority is to create a patriotic, revolutionary environment in all of our schools; to promote deep political and ideological convictions. The main task of the Cuban school is to demonstrate the superiority of

socialism every day. This course is supposed to provide a far-reaching study of our Constitution, without formulas or memorization.

The other great priority, closely tied to the previous one, is to ensure that our teachers, our children, the new generations, view work with great respect. We must provide an education based on the work-study system, and the idea that work makes the man must be present in all lessons, from preschool to higher education.

Secondly, we must ensure that the "students to the countryside" program becomes a part of our education system. It cannot be regarded as something superimposed on the calendar; it must become an integral part of the calendar, of the curriculum. This type of instruction is now being given greater priority at the Mined and the Ministry of Agriculture (Minagri). We are forming a national general staff and one in each province, so that there will be some hierarchy and organization to this activity. We are making an effort to improve the camps; we have coordinated with the Minagri to eliminate the system of standards, of field guides, so that agricultural work can be carried out on a task-by-task basis. We are also striving to strengthen the schools in the countryside, because we believe that they are the ideal school, where the student can systematically combine studying with work and become much more well-rounded in physical and mental development, and in moral upbringing.

These schools have been repaired to the extent possible, and plans are under way to make them self-sufficient, and not just in produce.

Of more than 900 internal centers in the country, about 100 are able to supply all of their own needs, while 30 percent meet 60 to 70 percent of their needs. It is the policy of the Mined and the Minagri to make further progress in this regard.

[Diz] Will the students to the countryside program be mandatory?

[Gomez] We will gradually increase the requirements. There was a time when the students to the countryside program was practically a political mobilization, but we must exercise full control to make people understand that this is part of the education process, and that both teachers and students must be fully involved, with each person doing what he or she can. We have every right to say that participation in the students to the countryside program is a requirement for promotion, and just as no one would think of excusing a student from a subject, it will not be easy to excuse someone from going to the countryside. [passage omitted]

[Diz] Will the urban preparatory schools cease to exist?

[Gomez] In nine out of 14 provinces, all of the preparatory schools are now in the countryside, and in five of them, the urban schools are being phased out so that all institutions at that level can become Preuniversity Institutes in the Countryside (IPUEC). For the time being, just a few places will be available at the urban schools for exceptionally good students who have very serious health problems and limitations, although we do have children with motor or vision problems or asthma in the countryside and they are being taught with no problems. All of the internal centers have a family practitioner and a nurse on staff.

[Diz] But what if they have health problems and are not exceptionally good students?

[Gomez] Well, the preparatory school is not the only alternative for those leaving the ninth grade; there are also the trade schools and the polytechnical schools. In fact, only 40 percent of those who complete junior high school go on to preparatory school, and that percentage must be reduced further.

As for the polytechnical schools, the first priority in vocational training goes to the agricultural campuses, and an effort has been made in all provinces to cover enrollment needs there. We already have 150 campuses (43 were established last year, and 50 this year), which means that the country now has 80,000 places for future workers. We think that once these centers reach their full potential and graduate 20,000 trainees a year, they will be a major source of manpower for agriculture.

We have not promised those graduates that they will be able to go on to university, because then who would go work the land and produce? But in no way does this preclude the best students in the agricultural polytechnical schools from continuing their studies in agronomy, something which we encourage.

The way to convince students and stimulate them to enroll in these centers is to ensure the quality of the polytechnical schools and to achieve success in coordinating with businesses so that the students will be motivated in all aspects of agricultural work. [passage omitted]

PRC Delegation Meets With Attorney General

FL3009022392 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] China and Cuba will strengthen their ties of friendship and cooperation even more during the visit of a delegation from China's Supreme Office of the Public Prosecutor [la fiscalia suprema]. The Chinese delegation, headed by Deputy Public Prosecutor (Chen Min Chu) is visiting in response to an invitation from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Cuba.

The Chinese delegation will be in Cuba until 4 October. The Chinese guests will tour sites of economic and cultural interest and will meet with Cuban Government leaders. Today, (Chen Min Chu) and his group met with Dr. Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, attorney general of the Republic of Cuba, who explained to them the structure and functions of the institution he heads.

The Chinese delegation's trip just happens to coincide with the 32d anniversary of the establishment of relations between our two countries and the 43d anniversary of the founding of the PRC.

Biomedicine Workshop With PRC Begins

FL2909153592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The first workshop on Cuban-Chinese biomedicine was held today at the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Havana. This workshop began with an exhibit about our country's achievements in genetic engineering and biotechnology and the cooperation between Cuba and China in the medical, pharmaceutics, medical equipment, and biotechnology industries and in traditional Asian medicine.

[Begin recording of PRC Embassy Charge d'Affairs Li Xinghao] We are aware that carrying forward our bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, reponds to the fundamental interests and aspirations of the Chinese and Cuban peoples and will result in benefits for our two nations. [applause] [end recording]

Cuban specialists demonstrated their success with the techniques of traditional medicine, reflecting the results of support and guidance provided by [words indistinct] in this field [words indistinct] Another important aspect is the cooperation between China and Cuba in the field of neuroscience, which began two years ago between the Neuroscience Center at the National Center for Scientific Research and the medical universities of Beijing and southeast China, and where Cuban medical equipment to diagnose brain diseases and language development in children is already being produced.

Dominican Republic

* Billions of Pesos Withdrawn From Circulation

92CA0215D Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Aug 92 p 1-E

[Article by economic editor Pedro Caba]

[Text] During the first six months of the year, the government withdrew from circulation the sum of 2.4797 billion pesos: equivalent to 26 percent of the total revenues for the period.

The state's total revenues from January to July amounted to 9.38 billion pesos, counting only internal revenues, and discounting the funds from external revenues.

By July, the external revenues totaled 1.5926 billion pesos. Hence, the government's total revenues amount to 10.9726 billion pesos, as one concludes from the government's latest report on revenues and expenditures.

As had been reported by the Central Bank, the withdrawal of currency from circulation is a result of the exchange surcharge on imports and other government revenues, including consular receipts.

The monies withdrawn from circulation by the government have been deposited in the Central Bank, which provides for their blocking and removal from circulation. It is not known whether these monies have been burned, for their effective removal from the money supply.

As may be recalled, the government had never previously ordered a currency call in of such scope.

The government's standard revenues far exceed those budgeted in the Law on Public Spending.

These figures do not include the foreign debt payments, on which there is no updated information.

Moreover, it is known that the government has saved over 1.3 billion pesos in the Reserve Bank, available for possible governmental expenses.

* First-Half 1992 Imports Rise, Exports Fall

92CA0215C Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Aug 92 p 1-D

[Article by Jose Mercedes Felix]

[Text] During the first half of this year, the value of exports showed a decline of 21.68 percent; whereas imports increased 20.24 percent in comparison with the first period of 1991.

According to data from the Ecocaribe consulting firm, from January to June 1992 the value of exports reached $305.9 million. During the same period last year, sales abroad totaled $390.6 million.

It is noted that, in the first half of 1992, the value of coffee exports showed its greatest decline, reaching a negative balance of 61.83 percent. Between January and June of this year, that value was only $9.2 million; whereas, last year, it attained a total of $24.1 million.

In the first half of this year, the value of minerals reached $104.3 million; while, for the same period of 1991, it had totaled $150.1 million. This represents a negative balance of 30.51 percent.

Meanwhile, sugar registered a value of $115.5 million from January to June 1991; but in the same period this year it dropped to $96.3 million: equivalent to a negative balance of 16.62 percent.

Cacao exports during the first half of 1992 represented $22.1 million; whereas in the same period last year the figure was $25.3 million. This reflects a decline of 12.65 percent.

Only tobacco exports showed a positive balance during the first half of 1992. For this period, the value of exports totaled $10.8 million, compared with $9.3 million in 1991.

Nevertheless, the value of exports of other products for the first half of 1992 amounted to $63.2 million. Last year, the total was $66.3 million during the same period; showing a negative balance of 4.68 percent.

As for imports of goods, Ecocaribe notes that, between January and June 1992, they registered a total of $991.7 million, while the figure for the same period of 1991 was $824.8 million. In other words, there was a 57.95 percent increase.

During the first half of 1991, oil imports represented a sum of $210.6 million; rising to $240 million in the period that has just elapsed. This is equivalent to a 13.96 percent rise.

On the other hand, the value of coal purchases from January to June 1991 was $7.7 million. It declined to $5.5 million during the same period this year, showing a negative balance of 28.57 percent.

Moreover, imports of food products dropped 47.55 percent during the first half of 1992, reaching a value of $26.8 million for that period; whereas in 1991 they had totaled $51.1 million.

Meanwhile, purchases of other products abroad in the first half of 1992 totaled $719.4 million; representing a 29.53 percent rise compared with the same period of 1991, when they amounted to $555.4 million.

* First-Half 1992 Revenues Up 66.5 Percent

92CA0215B Santo Domingo LISTIN DIAIRO in Spanish 13 Aug 92 p 1-D

[Article by Carmen Carvajal]

[Text] During the first half of the year, the government's fiscal revenues increased 66.5 percent in comparison with the figure for the same period last year.

A study on the progress of the Dominican economy during the period January-June, prepared by the economic department of a leading entrepreneurial group, indicates that, during that interval, the treasury received 7.801 billion pesos.

Of the total revenues accrued, 93 percent represented income from tax collections, and the largest amount was that related to foreign trade.

The report indicates that, during the period, revenues from foreign trade rose 84.1 percent compared with the 1991 figure.

It notes that the increase in customs revenues reflects a large expansion in imports, compared with the enormous decline in exports; because, whereas taxes on purchases abroad totaled 2.289 billion pesos, 1.5 million was paid for exports.

Costs rose to 7.1699 billion pesos, of which sum 2.626 billion pertained to running expenses, and 4.5439 billion to capital spending.

A surplus of 631.5 million is inferred from this report, 488 million of which was withdrawn from circulation, with 143.5 million left available.

The report notes that, although economic activity grew 4.8 percent during the first six months, in June a cutback in industrial activity was perceived.

It attributed this sector's paralyzation to the process of reforms which, from the report's viewpoint, has created uncertainty; as well as to the lack of an adequate liquidity level in the commercial banks. The latter did not have sufficient funds available to finance the economic reactivation process.

The report observes that there was an increase in the banks' interest receivable and payable, resulting from the lack of liquidity, and also from a rise in price levels during June. It explains that the inflation rate from June 1991 to June 1992 was 5.8 percent.

* Onapres Reports Jul Revenues, Expenditures

92CA0215A Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 26 Aug 92 pp 1, 4

[Text] The National Budget Office (Onapres) has announced that the government's revenues in July of this year amounted to 1.5681 billion pesos.

A note from Onapres indicates that 733.7 million pesos of those funds accrued by the government were allocated for investment.

The funds collected in July exceeded by approximately 200 million pesos those obtained in June, when they totaled 1.361 billion.

The text of the note from Onapres, providing the details on revenues in July and the distribution of those funds, is as follows:

"The National Budget Office, in the interests of keeping the public informed on the state's revenues and expenditures for the month of July 1992, issues for general publication the details pertaining to this segment of the current budget year.

"The strategy of the present government, headed by His Excellency, the Honorable President of the Republic, Doctor Joaquin Balaguer, calls for the disbursement of public funds, with essential priorities, earmarked for the agricultural-livestock, irrigation, drinking water, energy, health, and education sectors; without excluding other preeminent areas converging in the harmonious development of the nation's progress and economy.

"During the aforementioned period, the national revenues totaled 1,568,113,750.00 pesos, of which 733,758,787.31 were allocated for investment.

"The agricultural-livestock, irrigation, and energy sectors were benefited with the sum of 132,990,997.96 pesos. In particular, the National Institute of Water Resources (INDRHI) received the sum of 54,133,174.80

pesos for the construction and supervision of the Jiguey-Aguacate dams and the Sabaneta dam project, as well as for the construction and repair of canals and the maintenance of other dams.

"The Dominican Electricity Corporation received 34,991,650.45 pesos to meet that institution's commitments and to help improve our country's energy system.

"The Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) received 16,636,955.56 pesos for the implementation of various projects and the financing of several agricultural programs. The Special Fund for Agricultural-Livestock Development (FEDA) received 1,440,191.15 pesos to intensify the programs supporting agricultural production and serving other related purposes. The La Cruz de Manzanillo project obtained 2,178,188.00 pesos for the planting of different agricultural crops. The National Cotton Institute received 1 million pesos, and the State Secretariat of Agriculture was given 21.51 million pesos to promote and raise agricultural production.

"The National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewerage Systems obtained the sum of 31,781,837.51 pesos for the execution of various projects.

"The Central Bank of the Republic received 197 million pesos for payment of the public debt and the strengthening of our currency. The president appropriated the sum of 307 million pesos for calling in currency. The Santo Domingo Waterworks and Sewerage Systems Corporation was benefited with 98,293,589.63 pesos for the construction of the Valdesia-Santo Domingo waterworks, the Cibao Central waterworks, and other projects.

"Finally, the State Secretariat of Public Works and Communications received an appropriation of 231,155,167.77 pesos; and the Office of State Works Supervisory Engineers received 28,680,273.22 pesos for the execution of projects and programs of social and economic benefit throughout the entire republic. The latter include housing projects, airports, ports, free trade zones, waterworks, sanitary sewerage systems, highways, local roads, and maintenance of streets and historical monuments."

Haiti

Senatorial Elections Process Begins

FL2909192692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] A timetable of action for the senatorial elections has been established by the government. The Ministers Council approved the launching this week of a campaign to motivate the populations's active participation in the process of designating the representatives in the various communal, municipal, and departmental sections. On 9 October a number of actions will begin by setting a Permanent Electoral Council and establishing an interministerial committee, under the minister of interior, to follow the development of this file.

Medard Talks About Incident in Lower Chamber

FL2909205192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Italicized passages in Creole]

[Text] Deputy Alexandre Medard, president of the lower chamber, gave his version of the 25 September incident, in contrast to his colleague Pierre Simon Georges.

According to the president of the chamber, it was a duel won by the strongest. Ansy-Rose Resignac has the following report.

[Begin recording] [Resignac] Deputy Alexandre Medard, who has kept a determined silence toward the press since his appointment in the lower chamber, took advantage of this incident to denounce the uncontrolled attitude of his colleagues at the office. The question being asked now is: Should disruption be expected in this parliament branch? For the journalists who tried many times to get some statement from him, Alexandre Medrad often answered, off microphone, quote, it is not necessary. And as far as this institution is concerned, I know so many things; but denunciation would cause chaos, unquote. However, on 28 September, the National Front for Change and Democracy deputy came out of his silence.

By listening to him telling about his life among the other members of the office of the chamber, he seems like someone locked in a dangerous grip. I am dealing with strong parties, he stated during the news conference.

[Medard] *There could be some political reasons, especially in the approach that I saw they used in order to eliminate the president of the chamber. But the matter is more serious. Right after this incident, two deputies entered my office: Deputy Laguerre Benoit and Deputy Emmanuel Reme. When the deputies entered, Deputy Laguerre Benoit was standing there and gave me an ultimatum. I could either write my own resignation letter or have Deputy Georges Pierre Simon slap me several times. By then, I told them: Gentlemen, I am sorry, you would have to walk over my dead body for you to do such a thing and anyway, I did not come here to let people insult me. When I saw that tensions were rising, I asked the security guard to make them leave my office. They refused to leave.*

At that time, Deputy Lambert and Senator Opont and several other deputies who had come, were trying to ease the situation until I had to leave for an appointment. As I was leaving, going down the stairs, Deputy Emmanuel Reme spit on the president of the Chamber of Deputies. From now on, I understand that I could be facing some serious situations. I have started taking some measures so that my dealings are made inside my office. The fax machine is to stay inside my office. I do not allow people to come freely into my office.

[Resignac] On 28 September, Alexandre Medard provided his version of the incident, a version which totally

refutes the other party's version. The president of the chamber tells of having reacted to some physical attacks.

[Medard] He did not come to have an amicable talk, otherwise it would have taken place, the way it used to happen. He clearly came looking for a fight. I took the chair and pulled it out for him. He then attacked me. When there was a physical attack, I was forced to react because I still do not have the wisdom which would allow me to offer the right cheek when someone hits me on the left cheek. Perhaps that is the mistake I made, I do not know.

[Resignac] The president did not mention the hypothesis of his resignation. He simply stated that he was open to dialogue. [end recording]

Cuba's Robaina Continues Visit, Meets Salinas

Talks About Torricelli Bill

FL2909022992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Cuban youth leader Roberto Robaina today, in Mexico, gave 10 reasons why the United States will not be able to do Cuba in by means of its embargo; while the youth of Mexico reiterated its solidarity with Cuba and censured the Torricelli Bill. At a ceremony of friendship with Cuba held at the monument to the children of Chapultepec in Mexico City, Robaina said that Washington will not be able to extinguish, by means of its embargo, our desire to live, our admiration for the fatherland, or valor and decorum. Neither will it be able to extinguish, by means of its embargo, the hope for a better future; our confidence in our own strength; solidarity; our people's capacity to resist and develop; or the example of the victory of the dignity and sovereignty of a people.

Robaina also thanked the Mexicans who, at our side—he said—are defending our right to choose our destiny and speak with our own voice so as to be able to preserve what we most value: our freedom, our sovereignty, and our national independence.

Meet in Private Audience

FL3009120192 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has met in a private audience with Roberto Robaina, a member of the Politburo and the Cuban Council of State. The meeting was held in Mexico City at Los Pinos, the president's official residence. The two discussed issues of mutual interest for Mexico and Cuba.

Meets PRI Leader, Lectures

FL3009120692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Genaro Borrego, the president of the national executive committee of the Mexican Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], met a short time ago in Mexico City with Roberto Robaina, a Politburo member and the first secretary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC]. The Cuban youth leader has also met with leaders of the Mexico Popular Socialist Party and (Carlos Flores Vizcarra), the executive secretary of the Permanent Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Political Parties.

Today Robaina will give a lecture entitled, "Cuba's Challenges Given the Worldwide Changes in Socialism" at the Political and Social Sciences Department at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Later he will travel to Nayarit State where he will meet with State Governor Celso Delgado and representatives of youth organizations. The top UJC leader is visiting Mexico at the invitation of the PRI youth front.

Salinas, New Zealand's Bolger Discuss NAFTA

PA2909193592 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report by Roberto Garduno Espinoza]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari met on 28 September with James Bolger, New Zealand prime minister, who is visiting our country. During this meeting, the New Zealand prime minister voiced his country's interest in participating in the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

NAFTA represents one more step to promote the competitiveness of Mexico, attract more investments, and create new jobs without creating a closed bloc. During a dinner honoring James Bolger at the Los Pinos presidential residence, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari stated that a better internal reality is being built and greater presence at the world level is being promoted in Mexico.

[Begin Salinas recording] This strategy does not contemplate the creation of closed blocs, but the establishment of free trade that benefits from its comparative advantages and takes advantage of its geographic conditions. Mexico serves as a bridge between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and between the two Americas. Mexico's Pacific Coast is longer than 8,000 km, which is why it has sought to improve ties with the Pacific regional forums. [end recording]

Meanwhile, James Bolger, New Zealand prime minister, voiced his country's interest in participating in NAFTA because it leaves the door open for other countries to join.

[Begin Bolger, in English with Spanish translation, recording] This is a significant agreement that will affect international trade. Therefore, I am confident that NAFTA is an agreement aimed at other countries. It is also interesting that this agreement leaves the door open for the possibility of other countries joining NAFTA. [end recording]

The New Zealand prime minister stated the agreement is very important because of the difficulties experienced at the GATT Uruguayan Round and the uncertainty on the opening of other commercial blocs.

Pacific Basin Entry Supported

PA2909193492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0231 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Mexico, 28 Sep (NOTIMEX)—New Zealand Prime Minister James Brendan Bolger stated his country's government will support Mexico's entry into the Pacific Basin.

The New Zealand prime minister arrived on 28 September in the Mexican capital for a four-day official visit, during which he will meet with President Carlos Salinas De Gortari.

Prime Minister Bolger, who was greeted at the "Benito Juarez" International Airport by Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana, said his visit is meant to strengthen bilateral relations. He added he trusts that trade between the two countries will increase shortly by over 30 percent.

Between 1983 and 1990 the trade between Mexico and New Zealand grew to $509.6 million, $63.1 million of which were Mexican exports and $446.5 million were imports from New Zealand.

Mexico sells oils, vinyl polychloride, automatic processing machinery, synthetic fibers, and malt beer to New Zealand.

New Zealand exports powdered milk, butter, cream, yogurt, and sheep to Mexico.

Prime Minister Bolger will attend a dinner in his honor on 28 September hosted by President Salinas De Gortari. Later, he will travel to Tabasco and Veracruz in the eastern part of the country and on 1 October he will travel to Los Angeles, California.

On 23 September the Mexican foreign relations secretary stated his country's position on open regionalism at the Ninth Conference of the Economic Council of the Pacific Basin, held in San Francisco, California. Diplomats and businessmen of the 20 member countries attended the conference.

Azpe on Taxes, Deficit, Fiscal Policy

PA3009130992 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The second Young Mexico forum continues. Pedro Azpe Armella, secretary of finance and public credit, participated in the forum on 29 September. Azpe said the federal government will maintain a healthy fiscal policy and a consistent monetary policy.

[Begin Azpe recording] Let us maintain healthy fiscal and monetary policies. Let us advance in state reforms as much as possible. That way we will have lower inflation and spectacularly steady growth. [end recording]

Azpe said the 2.8-percent growth rate is consistent with the lower inflation rate and the economic policy because, as he puts it, Mexico's growth rate is not immune to the effects of the world's economic recession. He said the economic pact has represented a significant correction of the fiscal deficit. We have gone from a fiscal deficit to a fiscal surplus, Azpe said.

[Begin Azpe recording] We will have a surplus in the public accounts, and that still does not include privatization revenues. [end recording]

He said that to include these revenues in the public accounts would be too risky because they are not permanent. Azpe said the country's foreign debt will be decreased by $6 billion this year. Tax evasion will be combated and those who do not return their taxes will be penalized. He added that there will be 4.2 million taxpayers this year. During President Salinas' first three years in office, tax revenues increased 31 percent. He also said that during Salinas' administration 214 public enterprises have been sold and 80 state- owned enterprises will be privatized.

* Pronasol-Backed Study Assesses Malnutrition

92CA0216A Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 822, 3 Aug 92 pp 24-27

[Report by Raul Monge]

[Text] Besides being "narrow and "concentrated," the economic growth that Mexico has posted in recent years has been "insufficient" to eradicate the poverty and extreme poverty that beset almost half of the country's total population.

This was the conclusion reached by a team of experts from the API Consultancy Group, which at the request of the Consulting Council of the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol) drafted the study entitled "Diagnosis of the nutritional status of groups in extreme poverty." The study summarizes the alarming dietary conditions among disadvantaged urban, rural, and indigenous groups, conditions that, if not corrected, "could put the entire social structure at risk."

The 209-page document says that the problem of malnutrition in Mexico remains "dramatic" and thus demands immediate attention. To do otherwise, it underscores, is tantamount to committing "national suicide."

"This should not be up for discussion, just as guaranteeing first the survival and then the well-being of all individuals who make up society is not."

Based on studies conducted between May and October 1991, the document, which was disseminated privately in February of this year, offers an overview of the nutritional conditions that prevail around the nation, particularly among disadvantaged social groups. It also devotes space to the social-assistance programs in place at present. It says that although they rest on a solid philosophical and operational groundwork, "they are notoriously inadequate to deal with the magnitude of the country's nutritional problem."

It adds that this problem is already manifesting itself in different ways among younger generations of Mexicans. The following indicators, according to the study, illustrate the consequences of the worsening diet of slightly more than 40 of Mexico's 85 million people:

—More than 20 percent of newborns show symptoms of malnutrition to a greater or lesser degree. According to the National Nutrition Institute (INI), between 3.5 and 4 million children in rural areas are malnourished.

—The rate of infant mortality due to malnutrition increased over the past 10 years from 40.04 to 118.5 per 100,000 live births.

—According to basic anthropometric indicators (weight, age, and height), 3.7 million children under the age of five suffer from some degree of malnutrition. They are concentrated in the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, and Yucatan.

—The children who survive show irregular, slow growth or do not develop fully.

—The consumption of items in the basic rural food basket (mainly corn, wheat, beans, citrus fruits, milk, eggs, and sugar) has declined quantitatively over the past decade.

—The diet in poor urban, rural, and ethnic Indian zones does not meet the minimum requirements for protein and calories.

The study adds:

"It is an indisputable fact that poverty leads to malnutrition and malnutrition to high mortality and morbidity, aside from harming each and every one of the spheres of human development: physical maturity, height, weight, physical, neurological, and intellectual capabilities, resistance to disease, etc.

"If the poverty numbers are frightening (estimates are that based on the income-consumption relationship, no less than 70 percent of the population requires food assistance), the automatic consequences should be even more frightening. More than half of Mexico's population suffers from serious limitations on their development and capabilities," and this has an adverse qualitative impact on development potential and "compromises the future of a large proportion of the country's population."

Chapter Six of the study discusses a comprehensive strategy for meeting the dietary needs of the groups living in extreme poverty and questions the foundations of the National Food Program (Pronal).

"The entire approach underlying Pronasol is valid, but only from a general standpoint. Thus, it has to be translated into viable programs and specific, comprehensive, duly coordinated actions under a plan with explicit objectives and goals for the groups in extreme poverty."

One Year Later

In September 1990 Pronasol's Consulting Council reported that around 40 percent of the country's population was living in poverty and made public a plan to combat it (PROCESO 727).

This was how the nutrition problem was seen at the time: "The current nutritional situation in the country is marked by a decline in the real income of broad segments of the population, a slower rate of growth in the domestic production of basic foodstuffs, their diversion into relatively elitist food items, and their poor domestic distribution. The latter means, on the one hand, that certain segments of the population have insufficient access to necessary foodstuffs and, on the other, that there is excess consumption and waste by a minority. Almost all of the food and nutrition indicators are declining, and the poorest groups are the ones that have been hit hardest by austerity."

One year later, the diagnosis of the API Consultancy Group, supervised by the task/studies force of Pronasol's Consulting Council, did not detect major differences. On the contrary, it underscores "that economic growth in Mexico has been narrow and concentrated" and that "of the 10 leading social-assistance programs, just one Diconsa [Conasupo Distribution Agency]) has a significant nationwide coverage in both urban and rural areas."

It emphasizes, however, that the flow of products (sales) has been declining and points to appreciable supply shortages; it thus recommends bolstering the program immediately.

"The nutritional conditions of the population clearly exist within a well-defined economic and social context, which at present is causing them to worsen. This context is, in fact, marked by declining real wages, increasing unemployment, the weakening of peasant farming, concentration of income, the disadvantagement of ethnic minorities, the external debt, and the macroeconomic austerity policy."

The analysts caution that although the government is making an effort to achieve macroeconomic stability so as to boost employment and income, "this will not be enough to assure impoverished groups better access to foodstuffs."

Such access, they note, requires stability and equity in foodstuffs "by guaranteeing that the basic needs of the entire population are met." As a first step they suggest incorporating specific food and nutritional goals into social-development policies.

The following are the main characteristics of the groups studied:

Urban Sector. Taken together, the various available indicators show that 20 percent of the country's poorest urban households spend around 55 percent of their income on food. This is indicative of a low income level, which means that they have inadequate access to foodstuffs and cannot meet other basic needs.

A third, 34 percent, of household spending goes for purchases of seven items: corn, beefsteak, cutlets, chicken parts, eggs, milk, beans, and red tomatoes. In 1990 in the Federal District (DF), 27 items accounted for 78.63 percent of outlays.

Between 1988 and 1990 poor families consumed less of basic items such as beans, milk, corn tortillas, eggs, and vegetable oil owing to their rising prices.

The changes in prices, amounts, outlays for food, and earnings among low-income families (in the DF) led to the "worsening of this sector's nutritional status. They consumed 1.65 and 6.92 percent less protein and calories, respectively."

"These figures are particularly serious when we consider that in August 1988 the protein intake of this same stratum of the population was already below the minimum requirement set by the National Nutrition Institute."

It was also found that the most expensive distribution channels (small business, public markets, mobile street markets) are the ones that supply the poorest groups.

Rural Sector. The diet of the country's rural areas is even more worrisome than that of disadvantaged urban areas. Estimates are that 51 percent of infants suffer from some degree of malnutrition.

Between 1979 and 1989 a quantitative decline was observed in the consumption of the items in the basic rural food basket, as the intake of practically all of them, except beans, fell in most regions.

An INI survey in 1989 revealed that protein intake was 21 percent below and calorie consumption 20 percent under the national standard set by the institute.

The absence of adequate marketing arrangements and high prices make the picture even worse in rural areas. In summary, the diet of the rural population, some 25 million people, "shows a decline in the amount of food, protein, and calories consumed and high rates of malnutrition."

Indian Sector. According to the study, it is here that extremely disadvantaged conditions show up. The deficiency in calorie and protein consumption is 28 and 26 percent respectively. The percentage of malnutrition rose from 66 to 71 between 1979 and 1989. The supply of food is inadequate. Distribution channels are lacking. Middlemen dominate. "In general, the living conditions of between 12 and 15 million Indians (the Huasteca-Sierra and Mixteca-Canada regions, plus Chiapas and Oaxaca) are deplorable. They contribute to the malnutrition-disease-worsening malnutrition cycle."

Limited Strategy

The government's food strategy is set forth in the 1989-1994 National Development Plan, whose top priority is to assure a supply of quality, affordable food for the population, above all for lower-income groups.

In August 1990 the National Food Commission (Conal) created the special 1990-1994 National Food Program to help perform this task. As with the previous program, its specific objectives are to support national food sovereignty and to assure supplies of food to those living in extreme poverty.

The multidisciplinary team of the API Consultancy Group hired by the Pronasol Consulting Council devotes a chapter of its study to an analysis of the main government aid programs for disadvantaged groups (the council is chaired by Jose Carreno Carlon, the current director of social communication of the presidency). These programs are: Diconsa [Conasupo Distribution Agency], Liconsa [Conasupo Processed Milk], the tortilla subsidy program (Conasupo), IMSS [Mexican Social Security Institute]-Solidarity, Nutrition and Health Program (SS [Health Secretariat]), Food Rations Program (DIF [Program for Complete Family Development]), Public Kitchens and Comprehensive Services Units Program (DIF), and the Pilot Program for Nutrition, Food, and Health (Solidarity, Conal, SS, and Conasupo).

The report contends that even though these programs are on a solid foundation, they are "notoriously inadequate in view of the magnitude of the country's food problem." Their track record has been gauged so far on the basis of quantitative results "without clearly distinguishing their specific effects on the nutritional status of the target population."

The study reviews them one by one:

Diconsa began 10 years ago. Its purpose is to guarantee low-cost supplies of basic items (corn, beans, sugar, and rice within a basket of 166 items) to disadvantaged groups. Its target population can earn up to twice the minimum wage, which means about 70 percent of the country's total population. It covers urban and rural areas alike. It is the most important program of all. Yet according to the findings of the study, the stream and quantity of products has tapered off, and thus it recommends bolstering the program.

The programs to supply milk and subsidize tortillas are not fulfilling their purpose completely either. The former earmarks just 15 percent of its output for rural areas, distributing the rest in urban areas. The benefits of the latter, established in 1990 at the urging of the World Bank, are concentrated among 45 percent of urban households.

The health-care sector runs several programs, most notably IMSS-Solidarity. It covers only rural areas in 17 states. The universe of "solidarity recipients" numbers 10 million. "Owing to its characteristics, this program ought to be more heavily funded to serve its target population." The other sector programs have narrower coverages, owing to budget limitations.

The Program for Complete Family Development sponsors two programs: food rations and public kitchens. The former serves just over 450,000 people. "Its narrow scope does not cancel out its worth, but it requires a major push to expand coverage." The latter is still in its startup phase.

The government has set in motion a pilot program for nutrition, food, and health care through Pronasol, Conal, SS, and Conasupo to support the above ones. This project, whose hallmark is cooperation among institutions and which has well-defined mechanisms, is operating at present in only four states.

The report summarizes as follows:

"The entire approach underlying Pronal is valid, but only from a general standpoint. Thus, it has to be translated into viable programs and specific, comprehensive actions, that is to say, ones that tie together food, health care, housing, and education.

"Moreover, the aid programs must be complemented by production programs designed both to generate income and to promote plans for basic food self-sufficiency at the household, community, and regional level.

"Unlike aid programs, production programs have been developed little in the country, and thus the policies in this connection must urgently be revised."

The API analysts suggest radical changes to insure food supplies for groups living in extreme poverty: from the distribution channels to the methods of assistance, mainly in rural and ethnic Indian areas. This also includes loans to promote production.

"The population living in poverty and extreme poverty should not be helped only through subsidies or direct assistance, as these programs always run the risk of being suspensed. Government support must therefore be channeled into promoting the production and distribution of essential goods through the community, so that the community can revive agriculture, spur fishing, develop jungles and forests, and raise livestock."

In short, the study notes that the most appropriate solution to the problems of malnutrition and under malnutrition among rural dwellers is to revitalize production in the community.

In conclusion it states:

"The situation in which the rural poor find themselves warns us that economic growth is not sufficient to eradicate poverty and extreme poverty."

Costa Rica

Extradition Requested for Minister's Kidnapper

PA2909151892 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] On 28 September the Foreign Ministry sent the necessary documents to Eduardo Salgado, Costa Rican ambassador to Mexico, to obtain the extradition of Honduran Orlando Ordonez. Ordonez kidnapped Luis Fishman, government and public security minister, last week. The documents include an extradition request that will be filed on 29 September before the Mexican Supreme Court. That court, in turn, will forward the documents to the country's Foreign Secretariat. Costa Rica's Second Court had sent a request for Ordonez's extradition to the Supreme Court Secretariat after it found merit in charges brought against Ordonez by the Attorney General's Office. Our government is basing the extradition request on the Bustamante Code, which states that kidnapping is a crime in both countries. The request also indicated that a warrant was issued for the arrest of Ordonez, who became a fugitive from justice when he fled our country while he was out on bond. The authorities expect the extradition procedures to be completed soon. Meanwhile, the police and Judicial Investigation Agency authorities are conducting an inquiry on the circumstances surrounding Minister Fishman's kidnapping.

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

PA2909175192 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus addressed the UN General Assembly on the afternoon of 28 September. He referred to the dangerous potential problems that exist for the world.

[Begin Niehaus recording] Humanity has seen the dissipation of the nuclear threat and the ideological and military confrontation between the East and West. The confrontation of the colossi has been rapidly and violently replaced by conflicts whose apparent minor scope does not render them less dangerous to world peace.

The intensification—for the most absurd reasons—of certain wars that are viewed as conventional confirms the view that the effort to progress in the area of disarmament is a priority now more than ever. The end of the East-West conflict offers a singular opportunity to make decisive progress toward that goal and to establish strict controls on weapons trafficking.

The dissipation of the nuclear threat cannot mean the return to the era of unceasing war. Old sins have long shadows. Now, as in 1914, we are observing the events in the Balkans with consternation. Bosnia-Hercegovina, a state that is a member of the United Nations, is struggling to survive in the midst of a violent and unjustifiable war. Peace initiatives are failing and the definitive solution of this unreasonable holocaust is not yet evident.

Costa Rica is deeply concerned about the proportions this European regional conflict is acquiring and the innocent victims it claims every day, while the international community reacts timidly and incomprehensibly and refuses to adopt the decisive and strong attitudes that reclaimed Kuwait's sovereignty.

How many thousands of deaths are needed for a conflict to be worthy of international interest? The Somalian case reveals how distant we are from being able to talk about a true family of united nations. The Somalian conflict failed to interest us until there were 2 million people on the verge of dying of starvation and our consciences had been hit by terrifying images of Somalian children pleading for food.

Unfortunately, the Somalian tragedy is only the most terrible aspect of the tragedy of Sub-Saharan Africa, which is submerged in the agony of hopelessness, hunger, poverty, and underdevelopment, while the community of nations remains indifferent.

The end of the Cold War has not reduced the dimensions of the abyss between North and South, which technological progress is making increasingly wider. The third world countries not only are finding inadequate answers to their needs and problems, but are also seeing the reduction of markets for their products and increasingly smaller amounts of money for development cooperation.

The deadlock at the Uruguay Round, the growing protectionist measures of industrialized nations, and the reduction of development aid programs are taking place, paradoxically, at a time when Latin America has become a continent of democracy and many African and Asian nations have returned to the path of civil and political freedom. [end recording]

El Salvador

Cristiani Reports Meeting With UN's Goulding

PA3009124392 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Sep 92

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with unidentified reporters in San Salvador on 29 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding's arrival?

[Cristiani] We had a meeting with Mr. Goulding on the morning of 29 September. We talked mainly about the land transfer program. We tried to find a feasible and reasonable alternative for all concerned as we want to start this program in October.

[Reporter] According to the schedule, the third [words indistinct] of the 20 percent of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] demobilization [words indistinct]. How was this handled with Mr. Goulding?

[Cristiani] We did not talk about this matter. The only point we discussed was the land issue. We will meet with Goulding again on 30 September, and I understand he will meet with the FMLN in the afternoon [date not specified].

[Reporter] The FMLN has conditioned its demobilization on the transfer of land.

[Cristiani] Well, the FMLN is the one that did not accept the proposal. The government made the proposal prior to the 16th [month not specified].

[Reporter] Mr. President, is there a possibility [words indistinct] the ad hoc commission's report?

[Cristiani] Definitely not, at least not on our side.

[Reporter] It is said that it could have a negative effect on the possible implementation....

[Cristiani, interrupting] The under secretary general has his copy and he is a perfectly trustworthy witness. Unless somebody at the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace wants to say the under secretary general is not trustworthy.

[Reporter] The U.S. Southern Command commander said on 28 September that you were trying to get the ad hoc commission to soften its report.

[Cristiani] No, this is not....[pauses] We are not asking that the report be softened. We are still at the evaluation phase in regard to its implementation.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Cristiani] We are going to comply with the agreements.

Cristiani Requests Flexibility With Military

PA2909235392 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani is discussing with the United Nations the possibility of applying flexibility to a report on Armed Forces' conduct, it was revealed by General George Joulwan, commander of the U.S. Southern Command.

An ad hoc commission last week delivered to Cristiani and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali a report on the Armed Forces' actions during the civil war in El Salvador. The report, which has been handled confidentially, proposes the separation or transfer within the Armed Forces ranks of those soldiers who perpetrated human rights violations during the military conflict.

According to Joulwan, Cristiani said in a meeting that he is discussing this flexibility with UN Secretary General Ghali. During a news conference at the U.S. Embassy, Joulwan said he knows nothing about the report presented by the ad hoc commission. He also ruled out the possibility of extending the 31 October deadline for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] forces' demobilization.

The U.S. official stated his recognition of the role played by the Salvadoran Army in the implementation of the peace accords signed in January between the FMLN and the Cristiani administration. I would like to recognize publicly the professional way in which the Salvadoran Armed Forces have shown flexibility in the peace accords' negotiation, stated the U.S. military officer.

Human Rights Organizations Issue Communique

PA2909185192 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Sep 92 p 57

[Communique issued by nongovernmental human rights organizations in San Salvador on 25 September 1992]

[Text] On 19 September, after one of the nongovernmental human rights organizations made a number of remarks, the "National Defense Ministry" in the name of the Salvadoran Armed Forces [FAES], released an official communique that takes us back to times many of us would like to forget.

In a news conference held the previous day, the Nongovernment Human Rights Commission of El Salvador [CDHES] presented to the local and international public a number of reports it has been collecting during its long history of defense of human dignity, both to illustrate the participation of high-ranking military officers in the violation of the Salvadoran people's human rights and to demand an in-depth purge of FAES. This effort intends to contribute to the current process "for the supreme objective of the national reconciliation" as established in Paragraph A3, Chapter 1 of the Chapultepec Agreement, whose final declaration was signed by leading officials of the present administration, including General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of staff, and Alfredo Cristiani, FAES commander in chief.

The FAES "flatly rejected the groundless accusations of said commission" and asserted that the nongovernmental organization is "biased and irresponsible and its intentions are unspeakable." In all, the FAES "press communique" attempts to disqualify CDHES and similar institutions by "calling on the local and international public not to let themselves be deceived by persons or organizations not contributing to reconciliation and social harmony."

This rejection in the framework of the present national pacification effort is remarkable because it is highly desirable to listen to alternatives for a serious and well-grounded debate to find truth and defeat impunity. This defeat of impunity is also called for in the peace agreement, which was accepted and signed by FAES through its representative. Paragraph 5, Chapter 1 states: "The need to clarify and eliminate all impunity by Armed Forces officers, particularly where human rights are concerned, is hereby recognized."

Consistent with the documents signed by the parties in Chapultepec and committed to the defense of human rights, the nongovernmental human rights organizations have tried for years, to the best of their abilities, to contribute to peace and a sound national reconstruction. The CDHES and similar institutions have legitimized our work through the unconditional defense of the fundamental human rights of the Salvadoran population. This work has been carried out to such an extent that Salvadoran society and the international community have recognized its value and importance. For 10 years, Jose Antonio Pastor Ridruejo, special UN representative to El Salvador, was our voice. Based on Article 12 of the San Jose Agreement, the nongovernmental human rights organizations support the work of the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL]. Finally, in a few days, we will express our views to Dr. Pedro Nikken, independent expert of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Four basic conditions must first be met to acheive national reconciliation: The truth, which can help eradicate the causes and structures that facilitated the systematic violations of human rights; the sincere repentance of the responsible persons, which will indicate their capacity to live in a democratic society and in a state of law; legal and moral trials, which could lead to a fair decision based on the two previous conditions; and, finally, reparation of damages.

In this framework, the remarks made by the National Defense Ministry in the 19 September communique are worrisome. This is even more so when we consider that in the recent past numerous antecedents illustrate the fatal consequences of such remarks for nongovernmental human rights organizations members' physical integrity. CDHES alone mourns the deaths of four members and the disappearance of three others. Other institututions making efforts to make respect of human rights a reality have also been severely affected.

At this time of the concerted effort, there is no place for such intimidation that limits the freedom of expression on subjects fundamental for consoliating peace, a national interest that demands a change of attitude and the opening of opportunities for dialogue. Because of this, we are appealing to the Armed Forces High Command to contribute to the establishment of new forms of social coexistence that will consider respect for alternative opinions and a disposition for a constructive debate. Similarly, we are asking ONUSAL, the Human Rights Ombudsman, the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, and all of the pertinent organizations to pay special attention to this situation to preclude situations that could prove regrettable in the future. We are hereby requesting results from these institutions that can be reported to the public.

[Issued] San Salvador, 25 September 1992

Honduras

Discua Nominated for 2d Term as Commander

PA2909161592 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report by Danilo Izaguirre]

[Excerpts] On 28 September, and within a climate of institutional harmony, the Armed Forces leadership decided that General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir should be reelected as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Gen. Discua Elvir was appointed commander in chief to complete the term begun by Gen. Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez.

The Superior Council of the Armed Forces, Cosufah, and Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas met on the morning of 28 September at the General Staff Headquarters. The president was informed by Cosufah that it had unanimously decided that Gen. Luis Alfonso Discua Elvir should remain in office for another term. Callejas, who opened the meeting at 0725, briefed the officers on the floods affecting areas of the country and asked the Armed Forces to give all possible help to residents in the affected areas. The officers said they will follow the president's orders. Callejas also talked about his upcoming trip to El Salvador during which a binational commission will be appointed to define and solve the problems encountered by residents of the border areas.

Gen. Discua Elvir thanked the president, his superior, for his presence at the meeting and reiterated the Armed Forces' decision to support him in all that is good for the Honduran people. Gen. Discua Elvir also said the Armed Forces will respect and strengthen Honduran democratic and constitutional order. President Callejas had to leave the meeting because he was traveling to El Salvador.

Cosufah continued its meeting and discussed amendments to the Armed Forces Law. The Cosufah unanimously voted to eliminate Article 32 from the law. Article 32 reads: The Superior Council of the Armed Forces may not include in its three-name list of candidates for commander in chief of the institution a man who has already held that office or served in that capacity for more than half a constitutional term. By eliminating that article, the Cosufah opened the way for Gen. Discua Elvir to be reelected to office. Following the meeting, Gen. Discua Elvir was congratulated by the officers for his good work both inside and out of the institution and promised to help make the Armed Forces a professional force. [passage omitted]

Before the two-hour meeting ended, the three-name list to be submitted to the National Congress was chosen. The list is headed by Gen. Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, Julio Armando Pavon Rodriguez, director of the Armed Forces Command and Staff School, and Inocente Borja, commander of the 105th Brigade with headquarters is Puerto Cortes.

Nicaragua

Godoy, Cesar Continue 'Peoples Consultation'

PA3009023792 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Sep 92 pp 1, 16

[Report by Cesar Ubeda Bravo]

[Text] On 27 September Vice President Virgilio Godoy and National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar visited La Batea in Muelle De Los Bueyes municipality, Zelaya Department, continuing what they have called the "peoples civic consultation."

Godoy supporters said they estimated that 2,000 persons attended the meeting.

The peoples civic consultation was started by the two political leaders on 20 September in La Concha, Masaya, to find out whether the people agree with what they have called "the cogovernment with the Sandinists." According to Godoy, Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman has not participated in any of the visits because he is abroad.

On 5 August, Virgilio Godoy, Alfredo Cesar, and Arnoldo Aleman—known as the group of three—sent a document to President Violeta Chamorro in which, among other things, they demanded the retirement of General Humberto Ortega as chief of the Army, a solution to the property problem, and radical changes in the police corps command. In the document they also gave the president a 45-day deadline to discuss their demands. The deadline ran out on 20 September.

The meeting started at 1330 in La Batea, 245 km from Managua, with a welcoming speech by Valerio Robleto, mayor of Muelle De Los Bueyes. There were signs that read: Change Violeta for Virgilio. Seating in the stands were Mr. Godoy, Mr. Cesar, and mayors and deputies of the region.

Mayor Robleto said there have been three historic dates in La Batea. The first was 25 February 1990, when the National Opposition Union [UNO] got 95 percent of the votes and crushed Sandinism. The second historic date was 4 November, when the Let's Save Democracy Civic Movement was born. The third historic date is 27 September because of the objectives being sought by Mr. Godoy, Mr. Cesar, and Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman.

Later the National Assembly president spoke and recalled that "three years ago these people were promised a real change in the country. Now, three years later, we have come to tell you that we have not forgotten what we promised the Nicaraguan people."

During his speech, Alfredo Cesar said: "It is not possible that a people who pinned their hopes on the vote must now sadly see that the change has not taken place."

He said that change would be to end the imprisonments, land expropriations, and blocks of production. "Change would be to end all the negative things about Sandinism," he said.

Cesar made reference to building the state of law, a part of the UNO program, in which the law prevails. He spoke of the blocking of government branches and said that "the state of law is being blocked by the Sandinists and, at the Legislative Branch, we are trying to keep it from being controlled by the Sandinists and traitors against the UNO."

Alfredo Cesar added that the police force must not respond to a party because that is not in the interests of the citizenry. Regarding the Judicial Branch, he said: "Now it has proved it is not capable of enforcing justice. If it cannot make justice for the Legislative Assembly, it certainly cannot do it for a citizen."

Vice President Virgilio Godoy said it is necessary to join forces with the Assembly president and the mayor of Managua to watch over the people's demands.

He also stated that the only response to the proposals they sent to the Nicaraguan president was silence. Regarding the remarks about the demands sounding like a scratched record, Mr. Godoy said that the demands "are indeed a scratched record because they are the Nicaraguan people's demands which have still not been fulfilled."

The vice president said: "We have decided to stage a civic uprising to support the interests that united us in 1990 and which today are still the same." He mentioned that peace is not a gift and that, in this place (La Batea), the parts clashed with courage and bravery to attain peace.

Godoy said: "Each of those who was elected is a public servant, in debt to the voters, who are the ones who pay and cannot do what they want." He called on "all Nicaraguans to unite to speak and demonstrate the product of the union."

Both political leaders announced that, as of the week of 28 September, Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman will join them to bring their joint message to all those who want things to change.

Before the meeting, the political leaders toured the town's main streets with the mayors, deputies, and townspeople.

The political leaders were accompanied by Comptroller Guillermo Potoy, Carlos Siles Levy, former government minister Carlos Hurtado, and others.

Lacayo on Aid, Plot Against Government

PA3009005092 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Report by Arica Ramirez]

[Text] If the aid does not get here before 30 September, Nicaragua will not be able to meet its deadlines with the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] and the World Bank. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo stated during a recent visit to the northern part of the country. By releasing the aid, the U.S. Government would show that, as it has repeatedly told Nicaraguan authorities, it does not intend to jeopardize the Nicaraguan economic stabilization program, Lacayo said. He mentioned that any type of disbursement mechanism would be acceptable:

[Begin Lacayo recording] If the United States conditions the use of the aid funds to Nicaragua's debt payment to the World Bank and the IDB in the coming months, well, we find this condition acceptable and have nothing against it. If the United States says the aid be used to pay our petroleum bill, we would not have any problem accepting that, either. The important thing is that the money arrives because we have a legitimate use for it, we have obligations to meet. If we have the U.S. money to meet our obligations, we will use it. If not, we will have to look for money elsewhere. [end recording]

If the aid is retained longer, Nicaragua would have to request support from the international community, for example Europe or Taiwan, he said.

Lacayo said the polarization in the National Assembly has caused dangerous friction between the Legislative and Judicial Branches. He added that possible ways of solving the problem are being studied and [word indistinct] that the Supreme Court of Justice request it from the executive branch.

[Begin Lacayo recording, in progress] "...these solutions can run from meeting with the National Assembly authorities, to see if they understand the situation to be as serious as we do, to implementing the national budget and taking possible actions through the Attorney General's Office. [end recording]

The minister confirmed the existence of a plan to topple the government of President Violeta Chamorro.

[Begin Lacayo recording] To attempt to stop the aid to Nicaragua has been part of this plan. To try to involve and use the Comptroller General's Office to denigrate the government has been part of this plan. To come here and ignore—as has been done up to now—several Supreme Court of Justice rulings is also part of this plan. [end recording]

In regard to the actions of armed groups in the country's northern area, Minister Lacayo reaffirmed that the government is willing to talk with the rebels but said the military operation will be kept up to ensure protection of lives and property.

Assembly Declares Amparo Writ 'Inadmissible'

PA3009003892 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Sep 92 p 11

[Resolution issued by the National Assembly in Managua on 25 September 1992]

[Text] Whereas:

Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Gustavo Tablada Zelaya, National Assembly representatives, have filed an amparo recourse against the Assembly with the purpose of canceling the results of the continuation of the 12th regular session of the eighth legislature, which was held on 2 September 1992.

The amparo filed is clearly inadmissible, according to the Amparo Law and the Constitution, which do not empower judicial courts to meddle in the internal operation of other state branches. The nature of the resource is highly political. The recourse tends to hamper the Assembly's operation and disrupt its autonomy and independence.

Therefore:

The National Assembly of Nicaragua heretofore confirms every point decided on by Alfredo Cesar, National Assembly president and its legal representative, in the recourse filed against this legislative branch by Ramirez and Tablada with the purpose of canceling the decisions made at the 12th session of the current legislature, held on 2 September.

Issued at the National Assembly on 25 September 1992. [Signed] Alfredo Cesar Aguirre, president of the National Assembly; Nicolas Bolanos Geyer, first secretary of the National Assembly.

* Regional Free Trade Agreement Discussed

* Further Study Urged

92CA0210A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13, 21, 24 Aug 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Beware of the Free Trade Agreement"]

[Text] Signing the framework Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the Central American nations requires the government, owners of both large and small businesses, and the workers, through their unions, to study carefully the possible positive or negative consequences which this agreement may hold in store for our people.

The word "free" is attractive, but we must remember that it may become a dangerous fiction when trying to balance two competitors against each other, one of whom has more economic resources and more advanced production technology than the other.

That is what small business owners were asking Antonio Lacayo to do when he signed this agreement with Mexico's representative. They wanted him to realize that

without a support plan to improve our national industry's productive capability, Nicaragua would become (in fact, it already is) a consumer market for Mexican products, with the consequent devastating impact on our national businesses.

If such a thing were to happen, it would just increase our status as simple consumers, reducing Nicaragua's potential for industrial development.

We listen carefully when we are told that we are going to have access to a market of 90 million people, but we tend to overlook the existing imbalance between Mexico's production capacity and our own.

In capitalistic trade relations the stronger and the better prepared partner wins, and there is no need to be an expert to realize that in these areas we are at a definite disadvantage.

Another aspect of the problem is that one of the incentives being offered to foreign investors is the low cost of Nicaraguan labor, added to the government's attempts to cut to the minimum the social protections contained in our laws (the Labor Code, in this case), and its restrictions on the right to strike. The government's attempts to do this should alert the workers and their unions.

We understand that in the world's present conditions, a country that remains isolated may be crushed by the new economic blocs being formed, but we still need to be cautious and to always remember our national interests in negotiations. Otherwise, we run the risk of continuing to be dependent and poor until the end of time.

* Entrepreneurs Fear Impact

92CA0210B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Aug 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Free Trade Agreement that the Central American countries are to sign with Mexico on 20 August in Managua is viewed with a certain "lack of confidence" by Nicaraguan industrialists, specialists, and importers.

This lack of confidence stems from the "weakness" with which Nicaragua will enter the regional and extraregional integration processes.

Although they realize that it represents a necessary "risk" that will yield benefits in the long term, they believe that Nicaragua should join at favorable terms and with certain protections "because it is a special case."

Alfredo Marin, a member of the [agricultural] oil producers' group Gracsa [vegetable oil company], said he is not "so sure there will be free trade," as Nicaragua lacks experience in the export market.

Economist Jose Luis Medal believes economic integrations are risks that must be taken, and the agreement represents "part of the global process of inclusion in the northern hemisphere's markets."

Nevertheless, he admits that "given our present conditions of political, social, and economic instability, Nicaragua runs the risk of becoming a "simple market for imports from other countries."

He added that the agreement "must be viewed in the long and mid-term periods. Not joining would have negative impacts on our economic and social development prospects for years to come."

Marin, though, does not believe Nicaragua has long-term opportunities. "We have no other alternative; either we export or we collapse."

Mexico's Lost Credibility

Marin also pointed out that Nicaraguan businessmen have "a monumental trauma" concerning Mexico as that nation, "the champion of free trade," closed its borders to Nicaraguan meat imports.

"This was the first market we opened and they closed it two months ago. So how much credibility can they have?" he argued, alleging that the sanitary reasons they cited for rejecting the meat "were a pretext."

Marin thinks that Mexico is able to impose its own rules "because we are tied down by their petroleum." He felt it is "cynical" for them to be talking about free trade in Managua while they continue to close their borders to Nicaraguan meat.

"Our industry is so weak that it will not be able to survive the restrictions" which an agreement of this type generally entails. "I have doubts about whether the government will be able to demand free trade conditions from Mexico," he commented.

During a break in the seminar on the "Free Trade Agreement with Mexico" held yesterday in the INCAE [Central American Institute of Business Administration], both men agreed on the need to establish protective mechanisms if Nicaragua is to join the area's integration processes.

Medal added that the government needs to promote a more flexible exchange policy, and he feels that domestic political stability is vital.

Both speakers agreed that the transition to a free market economy "will lead a great many import industries and businesses into bankruptcy."

* Disadvantages Outlined

92CA0210C Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Aug 92 p 5

[Report by Erving Sanchez Rizo: "Nicaragua in Chaos"]

[Text] The negative mid-term impact of the free trade agreement between the countries of the Central American isthmus and Mexico will find Nicaragua in the worst possible situation to meet the collapse of trade barriers.

Experts' Views

In the experts' views, the results of the free trade agreement (known as the TLC) will bring about the bankruptcy of countless industrial and agricultural enterprises in Nicaragua that will be unable to cope with intense competition from Mexican and other companies, including North American firms.

These negative results will not affect only this sector, but the workers as well, who will be left without jobs as a large number of companies fail, while the entire sector of small industries and crafts enterprises will tend to disappear when left without government support.

Economic Sovereignty Swept Away

At the same time, some experts have no doubt that de facto sovereignty will be swept away with the removal of tariff barriers, as Nicaragua will move toward a position of very strong economic dependency, which means that the local government will no longer be making decisions.

Julio Cesar Bendana, head of the Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua, one of the sectors that could supposedly benefit from this agreement, feels that if tariff barriers totally collapse, that could allow Mexican businesses to set up branches in Nicaragua without naming Nicaraguan representatives.

Possibility of Joint Investment

In theory, the agreement would enable Mexican businessmen to make joint investments with Nicaraguan businessmen, so that new technology could supposedly come into Nicaragua, and it could also mean a potential influx of capital from Mexican banks into Nicaragua.

Biggest Problem in Small Industry

Dr. Bendana explained that the most serious problem will be in small and midsized industry, as well as in some of what are considered our larger industries, which he feels will not be able to withstand the avalanche of cheaper and better quality products coming in.

A four-year period is supposed to be allowed for local production to reach the level of Mexican industry, though the Chamber of Commerce executive considers that time very short. He does not think Nicaragua will be able to reach the necessary level by the time complete free trade is in effect.

Government Must Support Production

Bendana stated that the state should implement a real support program for local production. He added that free trade agreements will lead to the globalization of economies in large blocs. He believes that the real concept of nationhood will be lost.

New World Order

Another economist, Felix Contreras, maintains that these trade pacts are part of a U.S. program known as the "Initiative for the Americas," adding that this is related to the formation of large economic blocs throughout the world, creating a market for the United States.

Contreras said we can already foresee the consequences of the free trade agreement in the tariff reductions the government introduced. This policy has led small industries to bankruptcy and helped to boost unemployment levels to over 60 percent.

More Companies Bankrupted

Contreras explained that with the threat of another reduction in import tariffs in December, more companies will go into bankruptcy. He said that Nicaragua's ten years of war caused serious problems for the nation's businesses and industries; without government support, they will not be able to survive.

Farmers Will Not Survive

Speaking of small farmers, he said the introduction of products like subsidized North American rice is forcing farmers into bankruptcy, turning Nicaragua into a net importer without the ability to export.

He said that commerce is the only thing that has been stimulated, as the new resources that have come in have been mostly directed toward business. He warned, however, that as that capital influx declines and the external debt rises, Nicaragua's importing capacity will diminish.

He indicated that the goverment should begin an economic development program to put the country in a competitive position and then open up the market on that basis, but that what is going to happen will be a widespread collapse of production.

More Chaos

According to Sinforiano Caceres, vice president of the Federation of Cooperatives, the Free Trade Agreement will worsen the chaos that has now practically taken hold in agriculture.

He maintained that agricultural products grown by small and medium-scale farmers have no protection at all, while products grown by larger producers are protected. As an example, he said the free market governs sales of corn and beans, but not sugar, where there is a monopoly that allows no imports from Central America.

"Free borders for whom?" asked the agricultural leader, who said that farmers are at a disadvantage under the Free Trade Agreement: Nicaragua has the highest production costs, the most expensive raw materials, and the highest interest rates.

In addition to all these factors, there is also Nicaragua's technological lag, plus its social instability, placing both producers and merchants at a big disadvantage.

Even though the government says they will sell products that are not produced locally, Caceres warned that this is

just the beginning. As the banks are not financing corn, beans, or rice now, in a few years their domestic production will not be sufficient, and those products will also have to be imported.

* Goals, Needs of Labor Movement Explained

92CA0211A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26, 27 Aug 92 p 11

[Article in two installments by Sandinist Workers' Federation Leader Ronaldo Membreno: "The Union Movement's Strategic Goals"]

[26 Aug 92 p 11]

[Text] Amidst all the uproar during the past two years, the revolutionary union movement has made progress in defining a strategy to face the new challenges that the change in government and the shifts in the international and national context have created for us. We can now discuss these strategic points more fully with our members during the Third CST [Sandinist Workers' Federation] Congress and in a later vote to be conducted among the nation's federations and regions.

The current political situation reflects shifts of major importance that the union movement can not ignore, which demand from us a more strategic definition of our relations with the state and with all of the nation's social and political forces.

Limits of the Adjustment

The government has not been able to keep its promises concerning the adjustment, and neoliberalism will lead us gradually but inexorably to a more unequal society that denies the gains Nicaraguan society made during the 1980's; the people are being moved out of social, political and economic positions of responsibility, being replaced by international banks and the commercial and financial bourgeoisie.

As an effect of the adjustment policies, approximately 60 percent of the working population is now unemployed, and 70 percent cannot provide for their basic needs; health, education, and nutritional indices continue to decline. The government has not respected most of the agreements it made. This, in addition to its spurning of opportunities for coordination and cooperation, has led to great instability among the workforce. Added to this is the government's escalation of repression, its indiscriminate use of violence in response to demands by workers and other groups who are being hurt by the adjustments.

Even so, the union movement has grown qualitatively in this short but intense period, gaining experience with struggle; it has demonstrated great strength and capacity for resistance, making it one of the few social forces which, striving for national stability and a national program, has been able to provide an authentic opposition to the *liquidationist* pretensions of the new groups in power.

The shift toward the right, caused by the U.S. Government's meddling policies, only confirms what was already a tendency toward repression of the working classes, foreseen early this year with the government's imperative of "order" at any cost.

Viewed from a strategic perspective, the union movement cannot continue to provide a respite for an economic package which, instead of restoring the economy, seriously endangers its future by not financing the labor of thousands of producers from all levels of society; which channels foreign currency toward the private banking system and trade to benefit a few groups, leaving the masses vulnerable; which generates unemployment without offering alternative sources or any prospect of investment; which exposes the nation's limited production capacity to high risks and few advantages through free trade agreements, the unrestricted purchase of foreign currency, and imports.

Strategic Objectives

The neoliberal model must be turned around. Starting now, the unions should pursue four strategic objectives:

a)Getting the state to redirect its resources;

b)Increasing labor's participation;

c)Developing an alternative focus of power; and

d)Developing a legal framework for union activities.

Reorienting State Resources

State resources need to be reoriented toward a development model that provides opportunities for the people and restores their internal production capacities, working to move our economy into the world market without hurting our national economic life or our sovereignty. We must stop supporting adjustment under its present guise; this is essential. We need to redefine our present economic priorities and concentrate on creating jobs.

Increasing Labor's Participation

Both rural and urban labor must participate in the national and international market, by promoting and strengthening a program of ownership and management by the workers, with agroexport businesses in the hands of rural workers, small and mediumm producers, properties in the hands of people demobilized from the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], from Mingo [expansion not given], and the Resistance, working together with urban workers.

The union movement should also help resolve the crisis by stimulating economic life with production, trade, and services, by ensuring job expansion, using its position to shape economic policy. But with the profound difference that it will be motivated by helping the union movement to grow, and will work to directly benefit the workers and their organization.

If all this is to be accomplished, it is not enough to have partially recovered the workers' property, which was taken away in the past by the state and its bureaucracy, and disputed once again by the present government and the old Somozist landowners.

Twenty five percent of the state's assets needs to be earmarked for an economic policy that understands development as something more than mere growth, which will work to provide incentives for this sector's economic units, providing resources for the thousands of small and medium-scale producers who are now appealing for help.

This policy might take the shape of an economic fund belonging to the workers.

In addition, it is essential to have a special legal framework to cover this form of property ownership and to provide management and technical training for cadres to operate these enterprises in free market conditions, facing capitalist competition.

[27 Aug 92 p 11]

Along with getting the state to reorient its resources not just toward the capitalistic sector of the economy, and fostering participation by the working classes, we should make class and popular solidarity the basis for a national program to achieve the following goal.

Developing a Plan To Counter Neoliberalism

We need to develop a force to counter the neoliberal plan, starting with the formation of a broadbased alliance between popular and political forces, and the creation of new core groups, so that the people's interests emerging from the new realities created by the adjustment and the market may be expressed.

We must stimulate class and popular solidarity to make use of our capacity for mobilization. The FNT [National Workers Front] has been to a good extent a concrete form of that alliance in the union movement. However, we need to grow horizontally, organizing—together and with mutual support—with the rest of the social organizations which, while defending distinct interests, share strategic views about the type of society we want.

This is true of the community, feminist, student, and native peoples movements, progressive religious sectors, etc. We are ready to join forces with them around a national plan of a popular nature.

This great national alliance must also have local representation established throughout Nicaragua, composed of the forces that make up the union movement, cooperatives, people demobilized from the EPS, Mingo, and the Resistance, the unemployed, young people, women, and, in some cases, political parties that support the efforts of the grassroots.

Developing a Suitable Legal Framework

Strikes, protests, mobilizations, reports: all those methods have now been institutionalized by the tradition of resistance and popular advocacy. As we have seen during the past two years, they have been the only methods that have moved the government to keep its promises and talk with the workers.

It is not the union movement, but the government which has set the course in terms of the means of struggle, and it must bear the blame for the lack of cooperation and dialogue.

The revolutionary union movement has not been limited, as some may think, to an exclusively oppositional role. This period has brought growth in different dimensions, requiring us to consider a phase of institutionalization. We are referring to the support and service systems formed during this time in substantive activities and in the internal democratic operation of the organization, and externally, to the union's autonomy in relation to the political parties. One such expression was holding secret and direct elections at our Second Congress.

In this way, the effort to work on gender issues in the union movement through the Department for Women led us to realize that we need a Women and Family Center.

Research on the working world and on the union movement itself, as well as the legal requirements of our union structure, have given rise to a Socio-Labor Study and Analysis Center.

The need for training to meet the challenges of the new political and economic context and of a working class that will have to be transformed makes it essential to have a Union Training Institute to train our managerial and administrative cadres to run units owned by the workers.

In addition, during this phase the union movement requires for its development a better and greater administration of its own forces. That means statistics on membership and systems of communication between the rank-and-file and the leadership, and a reorganization of the federation on a more solid foundation. All this, taken together, will give us a clear idea of the reality of our forces.

It is essential that the union movement work so that the institutional framework created by the Revolution may expand democratic protections for actions conducted by the popular sectors. The legal viability of the space for action still remains to be defined in terms of the State of Law, to which the union movement is also committed.

Panama

'Positive' U.S. Counternarcotics Work Praised

PA2909213392 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Sep 92 p 5

[Report by Irene Hernandez G.]

[Text] Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo on 28 September underscored the positive work done by the U.S. Government in fighting drug trafficking after receiving $400,000 in aid from U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton to fight this scourge in Panama.

The U.S. donation was sealed with the signing of an agreement based on a study of drug trafficking risks at seaports and airports in Panama.

Galindo and Hinton signed the agreement at a ceremony that was also attended by Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena and other top Panamanian security officials.

The agreement signed by the two officials pertains only to an "appendix" of a bilateral letter of understanding on narcotics issues signed in April 1990.

This document states the United States will provide about $400,000 for personnel training and purchase of equipment; support and improvement of customs operations; and control of passengers, cargo, and arrival of ships and aircraft, based on recommendations made in this study.

It was reported that the $400,000 will be disbursed once the study on risks at maritime ports and airports is completed and will be contingent on the Panamanian Government's implementation of the recommendations contained in this study.

Ambassador Hinton pointed out these programs aim to improve controls at airports and seaports in Panama, but admitted there is no way to eliminate drug trafficking.

Second Incident Involving U.S. Soldiers Noted

PA3009043092 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0227 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Panama, 29 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Two U.S. soldiers arrested and handcuffed a Panamanian lawyer on 29 September for an apparent traffic violation in front of the hospital they were guarding. This is the second incident in less than a week involving U.S. troops stationed in this country.

Edgardo Molino Mola, magistrate of Supreme Court of Panama, in front of the hospital where the incident took place, said the soldiers' action was "an unspeakable abuse" and stated that "the strongest possible" protest must be made.

On the weekend of 26 September, a Panamanian telephone company (INTEL) worker was wounded by the blast of an explosive device thrown by four U.S. soldiers who were arrested by the Panamanian Police and later turned over to U.S. authorities.

According to Roberto Montanez, the lawyer who was arrested by the U.S. soldiers, the soldiers guarding Gorgas Hospital, a facility belonging to the U.S. Army, which has 10,000 troops in Panama, handcuffed him after admonishing him for parking his vehicle in front of the hospital.

Montanez, who filed a complaint at the Supreme Court, said one of the soldiers told him that if Panamanian President Guillermo Endara had parked his car there, they would have arrested him, too.

After being questioned by reporters, the soldiers said only that any statements must be made by their superiors—who refused to comment—in coordination with the Panamanian authorities through a so-called "Liaison Office."

According to the Panamanian lawyer, he parked his car in front of the hospital to carry out some business at the nearby Supreme Court building. The soldiers told him to get out of the car. When he refused, they took him out by force, handcuffed him, and detained him for two hours.

"The way they arrested me, he told the media, was an outrage to my dignity as a human being. They did not even listen to any of the explanations I was giving them. I got the impression that it was a way of showing the authority they have here."

Since it built the Panama Canal in 1914, the United States has maintained full control of an extensive strip of land around the waterway that crosses the center of Panama.

Even traffic violations by Panamanians used to be subject to U.S. authorities and laws, but this changed drastically after the 1977 treaties were signed by both countries.

In accordance with those agreements, the canal will pass to Panama on the last day of this decade, and the U.S. soldiers stationed in this Central American country must be withdrawn by then.

Argentina

Government Seeks Clarification Over Falklands

PY3009124692 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 29 Sep 92 p 10

[Report by Daniel Santoro]

[Text] High-ranking Foreign Ministry sources told CLARIN that the incident provoked by London's unilateral decision to prospect for oil in the Malvinas Islands will force a meeting of Argentine and British diplomats at a still undetermined place "in a few weeks."

The priority purpose of Argentine diplomacy is to obtain a written declaration "reaffirming" the validity of the "umbrella" formula, which, from a legal viewpoint, must protect the two countries' claim of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

This fourth negotiating round of the so-called Hydrocarbons High-Level Group was arranged last week during Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella's meetings with his counterpart, Douglas Hurd, at the 47th UN Assembly in New York.

The meeting will have to take place before 16 October because of the deadline marked by London for companies interested in carrying out seismic exploration work to present their offers.

The haste is due to Argentina's wish to have broader guarantees that the Kelpers will not discriminate against any Argentine private company that wishes to present an offer.

During a telephone conversation with CLARIN after signing a declaration on nuclear cooperation with France, Di Tella said the eventual presence of an Argentine oil company—alone or in a joint venture with a foreign firm—in the bidding "will not constitute a negative precedent" for Argentina's sovereignty claim. The Radicals [Radical Civic Union], however, seem to think otherwise.

The foreign minister probably needs this "reaffirmation" of the now-questioned "umbrella" formula because of the hardened congressional position. The Chamber of Deputies tomorrow will approve a project drawn up in consensus between the Justicialist Party and the Radical Civic Union "to repudiate" the unilateral British decision announced 10 days ago.

The text of the project that was negotiated word by word by Justicialist Deputy Carlos Ruckauf and former Radical Foreign Minister Dante Caputo supports the government position in general terms and asks it to present a draft resolution at the UN General Assembly seeking international rejection of the measure.

This last demand would place Menem's strategy—which permitted the resumption of bilateral relations in February 1990—in serious trouble.

The agreement that permitted the resumption of relations included a political commitment to withdraw the Malvinas question from UN debates and votes. The Malvinas issue has been discussed by the Decolonization Committee since 1990. It is registered on the assembly's agenda but it has not been debated nor, least of all, voted on during the assembly.

The lower house request—it is certain it will be approved tomorrow—will open a series of questions that Di Tella will have to answer on his return to the country next week. Radical Deputy Carlos Becerra and Radical Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen already have asked that the foreign minister be questioned over the oil affair.

Brazil

Reportage on Chamber Vote on Collor Impeachment

Lourenco Says Government 'Defeated'

PY2909173192 Rio de Janeiro Rede Manchete Television in Portuguese 1717 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Live relay by unidentified reporter from Congress]

[Text] A short time ago here at the Green Hall, Deputy Jose Lourenco, the government deputy leader in Congress, admitted that the government is defeated. Lourenco said that, consequently, tomorrow he will be in the opposition.

Chamber Approves Request

PY2909231292 Sao Paulo SBT Television Network in Portuguese 2228 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Final vote of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies on the request to begin impeachment proceedings against President Fernando Collor; read by Chamber President Ibsen Pinheiro at the Chamber in Brasilia—live]

[Excerpts] Deputies, there have been 23 absences; one abstention; 38 no votes; and 441 yes votes. The request for impeachment has been approved. [applause] [passage omitted]

The plenary session permits charges presented against the president of the Republic for the crime of malfeasance in office, as reported by citizens Barbosa Lima Sobrinho and Marcelo Lavenere Machado. [applause] This decision will be reported to the president of the Senate, in compliance with the terms established in Article 52, Item I, of the Federal Constitution. Having no more issues to discuss, I close this session, and summon the congressmen for another session tomorrow, at the regular time. [passage omitted]

Benevides To Receive Vote 30 Sep

PY3009014392 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Deputy Ibsen Pinheiro, president of the Chamber of Deputies, will tomorrow at 1000 [1300 GMT] deliver to Senator Mauro Benevides, president of the Senate, the outcome of the vote taken today on President Collor's impeachment.

A Senate session is also scheduled for tomorrow to appoint a committee in charge of analyzing President Collor's impeachment.

Benevides Describes Impeachment Process

PY3009124392 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Interview with Senate President Mauro Benevides by Eraldo Pereira in Brasilia—live or recorded]

[Text] [Pereira] The result of the Chamber of Deputies session will be officially reported to Senate President Mauro Benevides tomorrow morning. What will the Senate do tomorrow?

[Benevides] Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro will deliver the result during a ceremony in the Black Hall of the Federal Senate tomorrow at 1000 [1300 GMT] or 1100. Afterward, during an ordinary Senate session that will begin at 1430, we will officially learn of the document's arrival. During this same session, we will elect 21 senators who will be members of the committee that will try President Fernando Collor. We will then decide on the procedural norms of the impeachment process in order to faithfully reflect what is stated in the Constitution and Law No. 1079.

[Pereira] Thank you.

Ulysses Guimaraes Interviewed

PY3009124492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Interview with Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes by Antonio Carlos Ferreira in the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ferreira] Here I am with Mr. Guimaraes. He just told me he expected the approval of the impeachment request but not by such an overwhelming margin of votes. Were the 441 votes a surprise?

[Guimaraes] It was a massacre. We did not expect this. I do not think anyone, not even the media, forecast such a landslide triumph. I repeat, it was a real massacre.

[Ferreira] Why?

[Guimaraes] I hope that this young man, who already has made so many mistakes, will not make the unwise decision of staying in a palace from which the Brazilian people want him removed. If this had been a parliamentary system, everyone would be working and the country would not have been paralyzed in order to replace a chief of government.

[Ferreira] You were the most applauded deputy during the voting session. What do you think of this?

[Guimaraes] I think it is recognition of my public activities. I thank God for having allowed me to live as I lived and for allowing me to reach this point of my life to observe an event like this: the triumph of the citizenry, democracy, and my country. It is an example for all of Latin America, as I told several foreign journalists who interviewed me here.

[Ferreira] Thank you very much.

Borja, Dias Hold News Conference

PY3009020692 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 2330 GMT 29 Sep 92

[News conference by Justice Minister Celio Borja and presidential spokesman Etevaldo Dias with unidentified correspondents at Planalto Palace in Brasilia—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Borja] ...we can succeed in making the democratic and republican institutions resolve the conflict within the framework of the Constitution. More important, we must ensure that democracy endures, that the parties involved in this process act with dignity, and that the law prevails over individual wishes. The important thing now is to preserve the primacy of the law and the Constitution. To this extent, the president wants to prepare the transition to facilitate the work of the next administration. He has thus appointed a committee composed of the justice minister, the secretary general of the Presidency, the military household chief, the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, and the government leader in the Senate. This committee will contact the vice president of the Republic and the heads of the legislative and judicial branches.

The president also asked me to urge the other ministers and government secretaries to cooperate fully with the next administration, with the vice president who will take office and his closest aides. He asked them to remain in their positions until Vice President Itamar Franco replaces them. I have already asked the vice president of the Republic to meet with me. I have also been trying, unsuccessfully so far, to contact Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro, Senate President Mauro Benevides, and Federal Supreme Court President Sydney Sanches to tell them the instructions I received from President Collor. I also want to report the president's decision to ensure that the Constitution and the laws are complied with. I plan to report to them that the president is committed to facilitating the transition process. This process begins when he, President Collor, leaves his post and the vice president takes office.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Borja] Exactly. I believe this will be defined by the Senate president. This is a very important point. The president will never obstruct the decisions of the appropriate powers.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Borja] I beg your pardon?

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the Senate, President Collor will not appeal?

[Borja] Yes, I believe so. I believe the president is willing to comply with whatever decisions have been made.

[Correspondent] And the Senate president as well?

[Borja] Yes, by the appropriate person.

[Correspondent] Has the resignation idea been discarded?

[Borja] So far, this word has not been mentioned. What needs to be said is that the president places Brazil's interests above all personal considerations.

[Correspondent] Will he come to Planalto Palace tomorrow?

[Borja] He has not told me anything about that.

[Correspondent] Why were you chosen to hold this news conference?

[Borja] Because, as you know, the Justice Ministry is the oldest ministry and, in situations such as this, no matter who the justice minister is, the ministry is chosen to play this role. Besides, we are establishing a pattern, because there has never been a similar situation in the country.

[Correspondent] Minister, does this mean that all ministers will remain at their posts until the Itamar Franco government is established?

[Borja] Exactly. And according to recommendations by President Collor, they must offer the necessary cooperation.

[Correspondent] Will the president move to the Alvorada Palace?

[Borja] This is an issue on which an understanding must be reached with those authorities who will take over the administration. But I can say this—and I already talked about this with the president—I can say that he does not intend to move. During his Presidency he lived in his private residence. I believe there is no reason—and this is his opinion, because I know it—no reason for him to move to Alvorada Palace, as was rumored.

[Correspondent] Did you hand over the letters of resignation all together to the president?

[Borja] Yes, I did. All ministers signed the letter to the president in which they tendered their resignations. The other ministers also submitted individual letters of resignation to President Collor. I was also the intermediary in submitting their letters of resignation.

[Correspondent] Which ministers submitted individual letters and which did not?

[Borja] Well, there are eight ministers, including myself, who tendered their resignations to the president through me. I know the other ministers already submitted or plan to submit their letters of resignation, because when I came here this afternoon, they had not yet finished writing their letters. The voting in the Chamber of Deputies had not yet finished at that point. I will provide the names of the ministers as soon as I get them.

[Correspondent] Minister, was the voting in process in the Chamber of Deputies when you arrived?

[Borja] It was just beginning.

[Correspondent] Minister, what is the emotional state of the president?

[Borja] One of absolute self-control.

[Correspondent] Will the fact of having two presidents be the cause of any political turmoil? [passage indistinct]

[Borja] Our democracy is representative. It is not a direct democracy. This situation has only created the possibility for direct democracy. But this one has not; that is, we must all obey the decisions of the appropriate government branches. Concerning the jursidictional matters of the Supreme Court and what the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate have to say about the dismissal of the president, the president will respect them. He wants to fulfill with great dignity the decisions of the constitutionally instituted government branches. And he will comply with those decisions to the letter, and as correctly as possible.

[Correspondent] Minister, did you advise the president to resign, or did anyone advise the president to resign?

[Borja] No, sir. No, sir. I have repeated more than once that an imposed resignation is similar to a coup, and this is unacceptable in a democratic regime.

[Correspondent] Even in this case?

[Borja] It is absolutely unacceptable. The resignation of the president must be a personal decision.

[Correspondent] You were going to give us the names of ministers who tendered personal letters of resignation.

[Borja] Exactly, but I did not find them.

[Correspondent] Did the three military ministers also hand over their resignations to the president?

[Borja] Ah, I found it, I have it. May I answer your question?

[Correspondent] You may.

[Borja] Ministers Celso Lafer, Adib Jatene, myself, Secretary Sergio Paulo Rouanet, Flavio Perri, Minister Carlos Garcia, Secretary Eliezer Batista, Secretary Helio Jaguaribe. I think there are eight names there, aren't there?

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Borja] He tendered his resignation sometime during the afternoon, because when I came to the palace he had not yet finished the letter. He handed over his letter of resignation a little later.

[Correspondent] Did he do so personally?

[Borja] Personally.

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Borja] I do not know. I know other ministers were issuing letters of resignation.

[Correspondent] Did the military ministers also submit letters of resignation?

[Borja] They also signed the common request—no, not the request. They signed the common document in which they all subjected their posts to the disposal of the president.

[Correspondent] But do all of them remain in their posts?

[Borja] Yes, and following recommendations from President Collor, everyone must give their cooperation to the new president. I asked the vice president, who will be acting president, to find a successor for everyone.

[Correspondent] Will the president be suspended from office today?

[Borja] No, I do not think so. I believe it is too soon, and preparations must be made for the ceremony...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Will President Collor meet with Vice President Franco at a certain time?

[Borja] I admit that I have no information about that. I have not given much thought to this before. It is possible. It is not impossible.

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Borja] You can rest assured that everything will be done in a most civilized way. Yes, I was forgetting. I will have a meeting with all ministers and secretaries tomorrow to discuss the instructions given by President Collor and to ask them to cooperate with Vice President Itamar Franco. They will be asked to stay in their positions until Franco decides who will head each ministry. The meeting will be held here at Planalto Palace at 1000 [1300 GMT].

[Correspondent] Will the president (?attend)?

[Borja] The president will decide whether he will attend or not.

[Correspondent] After the president is suspended from office, how long will the Presidency be vacant, three days, a month?

[Borja] I believe that will also be discussed with Vice President Itamar Franco, whatever is best for him.

[Correspondent] In giving you these instructions, did the president meet only with you, or were other people present?

[Borja] There were other people present. Presidency Secretary General Marcos Coimbra, General Agenor Homem de Carvalho, and Presidential Spokesman Etevaldo Dias were also there.

[Correspondent] Was the president surprised by the outcome of the vote?

[Borja] I would not know, but I can say that he received it with great dignity.

[Correspondent] Was he watching the vote on television?

[Dias] The president was not watching the vote on television.

[Correspondent] Was he receiving reports?

[Dias] He was receiving frequent reports from Minister Ricardo Fiuza, from government leader Humberto Souto, and from other congressmen. He did not watch the televised vote this afternoon.

[Correspondent] What does the government think of the vote?

[Dias] Look, nothing can be gained by evaluating the vote's outcome; it is a fait accompli. It is the president's decision to democratically accept the vote. He is willing to go even further, as Minister Borja said, and will cooperate in any way he can to make the transition process as smooth as possible, in an atmosphere of democracy and of respect for the institutions.

[Correspondent] Will he speak today, tomorrow?

[Dias] So far, the president has not decided whether to address the nation today or tomorrow. This does not mean, however, that he will not speak. He will speak whenever he deems it appropriate.

[Correspondent] The president was scheduled to speak today.

[Dias] It is true, but the president thought that it would be better to ask Minister Celio Borja to speak in his name. At this time the president is meeting with dozens of congressmen, ministers, and congressional leaders who came to see him at his office.

[Correspondent] Did the congressmen who voted against impeachment come to see him?

[Dias] Congressmen, if you will, dozens of people. I am talking about citizens, congressmen, ministers, secretaries, friends, Planalto Palace aides...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Did he perceive the vote as an act of treason?

[Dias] The president made no comment on this subject.

[Correspondent] At what point did the government realize that it was going to be defeated? At what time did it admit its defeat?

[Dias, Borja speaking together] When vote No. 336 was cast.

[Correspondent] Only then?

[Dias] Yes, only then.

[Correspondent] Is the president planning to go to Planalto Palace?

[Dias] In principle, yes. He has not changed his plan. I asked this question of Secretary Marcos Coimbra, and he said he thought the president would. Yet Coimbra has not discussed the issue with the president because, as I said, many people have been visiting the president in his office.

[Correspondent] Minister, will the transition have a deadline [words indistinct] Franco administration?

[Borja] Yes, there is a deadline, and it ends when the transition is over.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] as fast as possible?

[Borja] Yes, as fast as possible. There is no intention to postpone anything. On the contrary.

[Correspondent] Minister, could there be (?a power vacuum) beginning from the moment the transition committee is established and the members of this Cabinet are formally dismissed by the president of the Republic?

[Borja] No. In such administrative situations it is normal that the Cabinet will look after these matters. No one will leave his or her position. The positions are not vacated for a very simple reason—the administration has committed itself to the principle of continuity. The administration is impersonal and is continuous. As with show business in general, the administration cannot stop.

[Correspondent] Has it already been decided how the president will hand over his position?

[Borja] From the very beginning of this news conference, I have said that this issue depends on a decision by the appropriate authorities. I believe these authorities are the presidents of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] president of the Chamber?

[Borja] I cannot summon them. I am the one who will call on them. I have already asked them to meet with me.

[Correspondent] Even today, Mr. Minister?

[Borja] It would be very good if it could be today.

[Correspondent] From an operational point of view, how will this transition committee function? Will the officials appointed by Vice President Franco work together?

[Borja] Please understand that it is not the government's intention to have members of this administration spread throughout the new administration; nothing of the kind. It consists in merely defining President Collor's status while away from the government. He continues to be the president of the Republic. At the same time, however, it is his wish to facilitate the work of the vice president and his aides.

[Correspondent] Will this committee define President Collor's behavior while he is away from office?

[Borja] Absolutely not.

[Correspondent] Isn't there [words indistinct] that establishes the rules?

[Borja] I believe that the president who will take office has an idea of how he will behave when he becomes responsible for the government. He will certainly appoint his ministers, his aides, and we will then leave our positions. What must be made clear is that our actions are creating a pattern, because there has never been a similar situation. There are no laws to govern the situation. Therefore, we must establish some rules through consensus. We must establish how we will operate in this interim period. From President Collor's point of view, this period can be no longer than 180 days. If the Senate does not deliberate over the request for impeachment within these 180 days, the elected president returns to his post.

I think all these things must be weighed and pondered. All parties must work together so that the powers given up by the president—because he still is the president—and those taken on by the incoming president—the president who will begin ruling the country with full powers from now on—can be combined in a way that will avoid any conflict.

[Correspondent] Who will decide on this process?

[Borja] The established authorities are the president of the Republic, the Chamber of Deputies president, the Senate president, and the Federal Supreme Court president.

[Correspondent] Minister, the Senate president will read the notification sent by the Chamber of Deputies, on the result of today's vote, at 1100 tomorrow. Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes said the reading of the notification marks the hour when the president is removed from his post. Does President Collor agree with this interpretation?

[Borja] The president will respect any decision.

[Correspondent] If the Senate decided to suspend him from office at 1100 tomorrow, will he be suspended from office?

[Borja] Yes. It is important to say that these things do not depend on anyone's desires. They must have a

rational and objective basis. This is what, I think, we must do. We must make an effort to find objective rules, the most convenient rules to serve the country's interests. We must help create a good administration. We must treat this transitory and difficult situation in accordance with the Constitution. It is most important to observe what the Constitution mandates.

[Correspondent] Is the president concerned with preparing the way for Itamar Franco's government? Will he continue his defense in the Senate?

[Borja] I understand he will.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] for the president to continue at the palace?

[Borja] I do not think so. But there are things...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Will he have his own office?

[Borja] He is entitled to have his own offices, the president.... [pauses] These things must be discussed with the vice president and the presidents of the other branches of government. I must confess that even though I have some ideas on this matter, I prefer to stay quiet and not influence those who will be establishing the rules.

[Correspondent] Did you consult with any of Franco's advisers before creating this transition commission?

[Borja] No. I spoke with Vice President Itamar Franco about it, but before the vote.

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Borja] He did not say anything about the matter. Happily, I have good personal relations with Franco built up over many years in Congress. He only said that he was open to an understanding.

[Correspondent] Would you accept a position as his justice minister?

[Borja] Allow me to say no. I would never allow anyone to think that my performance at the Justice Ministry was in preparation for a later advantage.

[Correspondent] But he could invite you...

[Borja, interrupting] It would be a very great honor. But I would have to tell the acting president that I could not accept.

[Correspondent] Would ministers who did not hand in individual resignation letters be able to participate in a Franco government?

[Borja] That will depend exclusively on Vice President Itamar Franco and on the minister involved. I will not pretend to influence anyone or interpret their feelings about wanting to continue in public administration.

[Correspondent] Does the confirmation of the cabinet depend on the vice president?

[Borja] It would indeed be an honor to receive an invitation to continue in the cabinet, there is no doubt about that, and it will depend on every minister; it will depend on the invitation they get.

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Borja] It will depend on the understanding between the ministers and the vice president. This must be discussed with Vice President Itamar Franco. There are no rules for these things; there is no law; there is no precedence. Brazil has never before experienced a situation like this. We must therefore provide a solution to this problem in a civilized manner, keeping in mind that for the first time in our republican history a problem of this kind has been resolved within the framework of Constitution. We are experiencing a very special moment in our history, and we must deal with it with care.

[Correspondent] When and where are you going to meet tomorrow with Vice President Franco?

[Borja] Here at Planalto Palace, at the offices of the vice president, at 1530.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, you arrived here at Planalto Palace at the start of the voting [passage indistinct].

[Borja] No, I handed over the document I mentioned earlier to Marcos Coimbra, who in turn handed it to the president. It was a brief meeting; it did not take more than 10 minutes.

[Correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Borja] There is absolutely no doubt that it is President Collor's intention to dispense with any type of appeal. This does not mean, however, that he has relinquished the possibility of turning to the judicial branch to demand the restoration of his individual rights; that is his prerogative. I must make this clear, because I have a limited mandate. I cannot relinquish any right in the name of the president. I am absolutely convinced that it is the president's desire that all this be done on a high level of understanding based on the Constitution and on the laws, and in the best democratic spirit.

[Correspondent] Did you watch the congressional voting session with the president?

[Borja] No. I simply met with the president. During that time, I was at my office at the Justice Ministry, except for the short period of time when I came here to give Coimbra the collective letter of resignation of the ministers, and the individual letters of resignation entrusted to me.

[Correspondent] Did you return to your office after the vote?

[Borja] Yes. I returned to my office after the vote. When the situation became clear, President Collor called me and asked me to come here to talk with him.

[Correspondent] Did he call you?

[Borja] Yes, he did.

[Correspondent] Did he call you—and who else?

[Borja] When I arrived here, President Collor was with the presidential spokesman and with Coimbra. General Homem de Carvalho and I then joined the group.

[Correspondent] Does President Collor plan to stay in Brasilia or to take some rest?

[Borja] He did not discuss that with me. I believe that is entirely up to him.

[Correspondent] Let us now talk about the municipal elections. The president is registered in Alagoas.

[Borja] True, he is a registered voter in Alagoas State.

[Correspondent] Did he make any comments to you on whether he is planning to go there?

[Borja] The meeting I had tonight with the president was brief, because it covered only one subject: transition.

[Correspondent] How long did the meeting last, 10 minutes?

[Borja] (?About 10 minutes).

[Correspondent] Etevaldo, will the president vote in Alagoas?

[Dias] I do not know. I still do not have any information on that. Those are topics I could discuss with him later. I do not know if we would do it today.

[Correspondent] What steps will the president take from now on?

[Dias] Look, all this just happened. The president has not yet stated any...

[Correspondent, interrupting] [passage indistinct]

[Dias] No, that was not planned. The president has not yet told me what his schedule for tomorrow will be.

[Correspondent] Is he going to stay here today [words indistinct]?

[Dias] He is still meeting with congressmen, friends, and aides.

[Correspondent] Who accompanied him during the voting session?

[Dias] He was alone most of the time. At at a certain point he was accompanied by Coimbra, and that was just about it.

[Correspondent] Will this vote also cause the first lady to step down as honorary president of the Brazilian Welfare Legion?

[Dias] That is predictable, isn't it?

[Borja] Thank you.

Court President Discusses Impeachment Process

PY2909151392 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Sep 92 p 3

[Interview with Federal Supreme Court President Sydney Sanches by reporters Joyce Russi and Miriam Moura on 25 September; place not given]

[Text] [O ESTADO] If the Chamber of Deputies approves President Fernando Collor's impeachment, how will his trial at the Senate be handled? Will you preside over the process?

[Sanches] If the Chamber of Deputies gives the Senate permission to try the president, the Federal Supreme Court [STF] president will preside over the trial from its beginning, as the current Constitution establishes. Under the previous Constitution, the STF president only presided over the final trial.

[O ESTADO] What will happen to the impeachment process if President Collor resigns?

[Sanches] If he resigns there will be no need to impeach him because the objective of the impeachment process is to oust the president of the Republic.

[O ESTADO] If the impeachment process is approved you will have to preside over the Senate. How are you preparing to preside over such an essentially political institution, which is so different from the STF?

[Sanches] The Senate is an essentially political institution. As a judge, I am not allowed to belong to any political party. A judge is trained to be neutral and impartial. If impeachment is approved, I hope the senators and I can remain on congenial terms. I am sure they will understand me and I will understand the Senate's actions. He who presides over the impeachment process does not have the right to vote. The senators, however, will act as judges and decide whether the president of the Republic should be ousted or not.

[O ESTADO] If you preside over the impeachment process, how will you control the senators' political attitudes?

[Sanches] The senators' votes do not have to be substantiated, they may be political votes. The impeachment process is not a strictly legal process, it is a political trial. My role will be to preside over the process and ensure the law is followed.

[O ESTADO] Do you plan to talk to the senators?

[Sanches] Senate President Mauro Benevides will come to talk to me on 28 September. I do not know the purpose of his visit but it will be our first contact, and we may discuss the procedures to be adopted if the process reaches the Senate.

[O ESTADO] If President Collor leaves office as a result of impeachment, or if he resigns and the attorney general decides to press charges against him, will the STF still

need the Chamber of Deputies' authorization to bring him to trial for common crimes?

[Sanches] The Constitution contemplates such a situation in Item I of Article 51, which states that only the Chamber can authorize the filing of a lawsuit against the president, the vice president, or ministers of state.

[O ESTADO] How long will the president be kept out of office if the impeachment process and the trial for common crimes begin? Are the 180 days cumulative or are they counted separately?

[Sanches] I have not thought about that. The president is kept out of office to allow the process to conclude. The Constitution has no specific rule in this regard.

[O ESTADO] Can the 180 days be extended?

[Sanches] Paragraph 2 of Article 86 of the Constitution does not mention extending the 180 days. If the trial does not conclude within this period, the president returns to office while the process continues normally.

[O ESTADO] Can the STF decision, which upheld the rules established by the president of the Chamber of Deputies to evaluate the request for impeachment, be appealed?

[Sanches] This possibility has not been discussed. Theoretically, if there is any doubt about a judgment, there can be a request for an amendment of judgment and for the STF to explain the decision. I do not believe, however, this will happen because all the votes were well substantiated.

[O ESTADO] How can two STF justices cast opposite votes on the same law? Is the law flexible enough to allow different interpretations?

[Sanches] This is common in the juridical world. The Constitution and the laws are made up of words that must be interpreted. They are not mathematically exact. Regarding the impeachment proceedings adopted by the Chamber of Deputies, Justice Moreira Alves, for example, believed that Law 1079 on individual, open voting, had been revoked, but the other justices thought differently. Opinions were more divided, however, regarding the introduction of evidence in the Chamber. The result was six against and three for. The doubts evolved from the fact that the previous Constitution called for a sort of pretrial, in which evidence was produced, to accept the request for impeachment. Only after that did the process go to the Senate where the trial occurred. Under the new Constitution, however, no charges are pressed nor evidence produced in the Chamber of Deputies. The Chamber merely authorizes or not if the process should be sent to the Senate. Currently, evidence is examined at the Senate.

[O ESTADO] What did you think of President Collor's legal adviser Gilmar Ferreira Mendes' criticism of the STF's desire to wash its hands of this matter?

[Sanches] Like every one else. Mendes is free to criticize STF decisions. It is not our duty to give an evaluation if the criticism is fair. I do not think he wanted to charge the STF justices with prevarication, which might give the impression that they had failed to comply with their responsibilities. I believe that as legal adviser of one of the parties, he let himself become emotionally involved. Mendes is a cultured man and I know he admires Justice Moreira Alves, who once helped him with an academic thesis. The STF is prepared to try all cases impartially, even if it is criticized for doing so. If the judicial branch is not impartial, the other institutions are endangered. This is why the STF cannot become involved in controversies or become emotionally involved.

[O ESTADO] Did the STF justices voice any political opinion during the 23 September session?

[Sanches] The session to evaluate the president's petition for injunction was in strict compliance with the law. Justice Paulo Brossard understood that the STF could not interfere in a legislative branch decision, but the majority of the justices thought differently. Now, if any justice did take into consideration a political position, it would not have been conveyed in his vote. A justice must restrict himself to the interpretation of juridical rules. If he does not, he fails to comply with his most important responsibility.

'Possible' Cabinet Members of Franco Government

PY2909191692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1840 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 29 Sep (EFE)—Itamar Franco, virtually the presidential successor, will have a 100-day period of grace—granted by the main political forces—in which to create a government program.

If Fernando Collor's removal is approved in the unprecedented vote scheduled for today at the Chamber of Deputies, Vice President Itamar Franco will be installed on 30 September or 1 October. [passage omitted]

According to various political sources, the following are some possible Franco's cabinet members:

Justice: Mauricio Correia (Democratic Labor Party, PDT)
Transportation: Alexandre Costa (Liberal Front Party, PFL)
Mines and Energy: Paulino Cicero (Brazilian Social Democracy Party, PSDB)
Economy: Paulo Nogueira Batista (an adviser to the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] leader)
Agriculture: Antonio Cabrera (Collor government, without party affiliation)
Health: Adib Jatene (Collor government, without party affiliation)
Foreign Affairs: Fernando Henrique Cardoso (PSDB)
Social Security: Antonio Britto (PMDB)
Government Secretariat: Pedro Simon (PMDB)
Navy: Admiral Mario Cesar Flores
Air Force: Air Force General Socrates Monteiro

Flores and Monteiro have been members of the current administration since Collor took office in March 1990. The confirmation of Army Minister General Carlos Tinoco is not sure.

Ministers Submit Joint Letter of Resignation

PY2909225892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The letter of resignation en masse of ministers has arrived at Planalto Palace. Justice Minister Celio Borja arrived at Planalto Palace a few minutes ago to submit the letter of resignation of the ministers who signed the pact for governability.

The military police have set up a special security system to protect Planalto Palace. The cavalry and the anti-rioting police have completely surrounded the area linking the palace building with Congress.

Bank of Brazil, Savings Bank Presidents Resign

PY3009014692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0014 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Bank of Brazil President Lafayette Coutinho and Federal Savings Bank President Alvaro Mendonca have tendered their resignations to President Collor tonight. The president immediately accepted their resignations.

For the time being, Director (Luiz Antonio Faier) will be acting Bank of Brazil president, while Director Milton Luiz de Melo Santos will be acting Federal Savings Bank president.

Vice President Rules Out Dollar-Based Economy

PY3009124892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Sep 92 Economic Section p 1

[Article by Pamela Nunes and Armando Mendes]

[Text] Brasilia—Vice President Itamar Franco said yesterday that he does not intend to base the economy on the dollar if he replaces Fernando Collor de Mello in the Presidency. Franco's statement had one objective: to calm the financial market, which on the eve of the voting on the request for Collor's impeachment is in great agitation.

The suspicion that this policy might be among the vice president's plans became known on 23 September when Franco had dinner with economist Andre Lara Resende, former Central Bank director during Dilson Funaro's administration and one of the strongest defenders of that policy. "That idea had not entered my mind," the vice president said in criticizing the policy.

In a chat with journalists in the garden at his house in the Lago Sul neighborhood, Brasilia's residential area, Itamar Franco also tried to quash the idea that he already is working on the organization of his government team: "There are no ministers and no ministries."

During the informal meeting, he rejected accusations that he is defending a government-controlled and regulated economic policy: "I have changed, but have not given up the principles that I believe are essential to the country's interests."

Congressmen who comprise his inner circle reported that the vice president will maintain the liberal modernization of the economy program defended by Fernando Collor. Franco reportedly only will change the pace and some rules for the privatization of some state companies and probably will review the opening of the Brazilian market to other countries.

Chile

President Aylwin Installs Four New Ministers

PY2809184392 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin has categorically stressed that those who assume tasks of an electoral type must leave their government duties. The chief executive pointed out that from the president of the Republic down to regional government, officials must remain outside the electoral struggle.

The chief executive made these remarks at the end of a ceremony in which four new ministers took the oath of office in his cabinet. During the ceremony, Aylwin praised the work of departing Education Minister Ricardo Lagos, Transportation and Telecommunications Minister German Correa, Economy Minister Carlos Ominami, and Mining Minister Juan Hamilton. Aylwin also assailed those who criticized an alleged conservative attitude of the incumbent for not changing his cabinet for two and a half years.

[Begin Aylwin recording] Durability represents a basic factor for development because it produces trust and stability. An uncertain atmosphere is created when there are constant changes, this harms national development. [end recording]

President Aylwin pointed out that expertise is not an indispensable condition for becoming a minister. [sentence as heard] He also wished success to the new ministers: Transportation Minister German Molina, Education Minister Jorge Arrate, Mining Minister Alejandro Hales, and Economy Minister Jorge Marshall.

New Ministers on Tasks

PY2809202492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By correspondent Maria Angelica Rodriguez from Government House]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] German Molina, the new transportation minister, is an attorney and a member of the Party for Democracy [PPD]. He discussed Transportation Ministry policies:

[Begin Molina recording] These are stable policies that reflect decisions based on very careful studies. The ministry has an excellent technical team that will cooperate closely with me. Therefore, I believe all the efforts to modernize the transportation sector will continue. [end recording]

The new mining minister, Alejandro Hales, an independent attorney, has stressed that Codelco [Copper Corporation] will not be privatized, an underlying concern now more than ever:

[Begin Hales recording] The president of the Republic's position is very clear. And I believe this position simply confirms this. There are many, many tasks ahead. Mining is not just limited to copper, but in this field there is much to do.

Codelco will be modernized. Mining will take advantage of all technological advances. I am going to support the establishment of the [word indistinct], the Mining and Metallurgy Center, that was established under the administration of President Frei and that must yield important results. [end recording]

We also talked with Economy Minister Jorge Marshall from the PPD, who acted as economy under secretary. He pointed out that his inauguration today represented both a challenge and an opportunity:

[Begin Marshall recording] We relied on teamwork for a long time. I was involved in the tasks of the coalition alliance's technical teams. I believe I am taking over this duty as a continuation of these tasks that we have been developing for a long time.

The success of former Minister Ominami's task is very important to me. We formed a team and I believe his guidance in this ministry represents a challenge and an opportunity for me to demonstrate that the ministry must play an important role in our country's future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Megavision Fined for Airing Private Phone Call

PY2909141992 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The National Television Council has decided to fine Megavision more than 2 million pesos for broadcasting a private telephone conversation involving Senator Sebastian Pinera.

This information was supplied by National Television Council Chairman Jose Joaquin Brunner, who explained that the fine represents 150 monthly tax units. He explained that the National Television Council's resolution states that the recording of the telephone conversation was obtained without the consent of the people involved in the conversation, thus violating a law that consecrates the inviolability of private communications.

Megavision issued a communique in which it states it will appeal this resolution at the Court of Appeals because it disagrees with the National Television Council's resolution and its rules.

Foreign Minister Meets Counterparts at UN

PY2609180092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The Argentine and Chilean Governments have decided to continue to monitor developments in the border treaty signed by both governments on the continental glaciers. Should both countries' congresses fail to ratify this treaty, both governments might convene a mediation board to settle the border conflict.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and his Chilean counterpart, Enrique Silva Cimma, discussed this issue in New York at a lengthy meeting during the 47th UN General Assembly.

Conciliation is one of the three possible ways to settle disputes peacefully, as stated in the Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed by the two countries in 1984—after both countries were led to the brink of war due to the border conflict over the Beagle Channel. This momentous treaty stipulates that disputes be settled, first and foremost, by direct negotiations. Should these negotiations fail, both parties must resort to conciliation. Should conciliation fail, the last resort is to go to arbitration.

Silva Cimma met his Iranian counterpart, who informed him of his country's interest to further develop commercial ties between the two countries and to resume Iranian oil exports to Chile. Silva Cimma also met his New Zealand, Irish, Greek, North Korean, and Ecuadoran counterparts.

The outcome of Silva Cimma's meeting with Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam was the reestablishment of diplomatic relations, which had been severed in 1973 after the military coup in Chile.

* DC President on Candidacy, Role of Coalition

92SM0608A Santiago HOY in Spanish 31 Aug 92 pp 18-21

[Interview with Eduardo Frei, president of the Christian Democratic Party (DC), by Lucy Davila; place and date not given; first paragraph is HOY introduction]

[Excerpts] He ended up speaking of himself, Eduardo Frei Ruiz Tagle (50 years of age, four children), senator, contender for his party's nomination as its presidential candidate, and presidential aspirant with the most points in his favor to replace President Aylwin. Without rendering judgement on anything, self-assured in manner, unhurried in gesture, considerably more enthusiastic than he seemed to be a few years ago, he expounds and is sometimes vexed when one mentions some of the shortcomings that others

fault him with as a candidate. Early, on Friday 28th, in his home—a tastefully decorated, very DC home in which he has lived for almost 20 years—after a special day in which an internal resolution virtually confirmed him in his 1993 aspirations, and an official dinner during which he sat at Pinochet's table, and spoke at great length with Pinochet on the leadership pact, his party, and the Concertation. And, difficult though it is for him—"it is my way of being," he likes to emphasize—he waxed more enthusiastic with "I am" than with "We think." Following was the result: [passage omitted]

[Davila] Do you feel you are the DC's best candidate?

[Frei] It would be presumptuous of me to say that I am the best. What I have done since I assumed the presidency of the party is build up our party spirit. We have demonstrated our great sense of unity. I have cultivated it in our relations with [DC Deputy] Gutenberg; Adolfo [Martinez]; Mariana [Aylwin]; and Felipe Sandoval. We have a very unitary working relationship. Practically speaking, we have not had to submit anything to a formal vote. Almost everything evolves unanimously around the table. We have consistently shown that it is possible for people to have different views with respect to facts, and still work together as a team. And this has served to gradually restore confidence and loyalties. That is the environment that exists. One must be measured more by the things one does than by what one says. [passage omitted]

[Davila] Do you believe that the DC's Junta, which meets on the 6th, will speed up the timetable of the party's internal decisions?

[Frei] I, and generally speaking the party, would not like to advance the presidential campaign.

[Davila] But it has already been advanced.

[Frei] We have been so consistent in this regard that in July of last year we mapped out the events on which we would be having to take action. But obviously, the Junta can empower the executive board to advance the timetable if the advent of political circumstances so warrants. We consider that it is not advisable to advance things, because President Aylwin still has a sizable schedule of tasks to complete. There are projects that are in their development phase, and we think it would be a good thing to commence in January.

[Davila] It is a good thing for the government. But for the party it might be better to advance the date if by October or November Lagos is definitively a candidate.

[Frei] Let us be frank. If Ricardo Lagos's candidacy was announced in January, then to what end? The battle has been joined.

[Davila] But when he is out of the government, things will be different.

[Frei] I am not worried about it. The only thing that concerns me is that we must seek the agreements necessary to ensure our having a single Concertation candidate. That to me is basic, regardless of personalities. Looking at things dispassionately, the procedures we define, the deadlines, and the timetables we set must be targeted on that objective. It is desirable for the Concertation, for the country, for the government, and for the party.

[Davila] As of very recently, the debate has resurfaced on the supraparty nature of the government. What is your position? Should that approach change?

[Frei] The issue involves two distinct aspects: One is the defining of how we will operate as a coalition in the next government; the other is that when we talk of suprapartyism we are talking of defining the powers, authority, and functions inherent in the presidency, the role that the president is to fulfill. The country's present conditions are obviously different from those that prevailed in 1989. Therefore, I believe we must define how we are going to work together in the next government. This is why we want to work on our platform planks, which to us are fundamental. From them, a number of things flow: Our political system, and concepts with respect to our institutional system. Irrespective of that, the president must comply with the attributes vested in his office by the Constitution, and no one can change those. Once elected, the president is above all the parties, above all the infighting within coalitions, and he is the president of all Chileans, as he has always been in this country. And I do not think we should break that rule in the future. It is unthinkable that the Presidency should be subject to the decisions of the coalition. I would not, under any circumstances, accept this.

[Davila] In your view, is a change of political system necessary?

[Frei] The parliamentary system facilitates the conduct of government policy through a coalition. From that standpoint, the presidential system is much more rigid. I believe that the complexity of government today is such that more-efficient operating alternatives must be sought.

[Davila] But that does not imply a change of system.

[Frei] It could imply, for example, that instead of 21 or 22 ministries, we would have six large ministries with their respective secretariats, and that the ministers would have much greater power of decision in those areas. That is a topic to be debated.

[Davila] What is the DC's concrete proposal for debating all these issues within the Concertation?

[Frei] In our letter of response to the PS-PPD [Socialist Party - Party for Democracy], we proposed they be negotiated directly by the party leaderships. No more committees. Every meeting in Chile produces another committee.

[Davila] Lagos's candidacy is more firmly based than it was in 1989. Its negotiation requires either a separate

debate or different compensations if the DC considers that he has the greater right to be the presidential candidate.

[Frei] As a party, we have never introduced an imposition. We have said that agreements must be sought, and that we have no intention of imposing a candidate as a prerequisite to entering negotiations. Our agreement to enter into a pact is the clearest attestation of our intent to respect our allies. When one initiates these talks, it is very difficult to say: I am going to talk in this manner, I am going to reach this specific agreement. The important thing is simply the will to reach agreements. In the letter we sent to the PS-PPD, we said that we are open to discussing all the issues, but there are certain priorities. What sense would there be, for example, in our entering into a discussion of our parliamentary quotas at this point in time? We believe that should come later. There are certain priorities, but the range of discussion covers all issues. There are no prearranged topics and we have no prior requirement as a party that the candidate be ours. Clearly, the realities must be analyzed. That is obvious in politics.

[Davila] How would you like the Concertation candidate to be elected? The DC does not have an official proposal.

[Frei] I believe I would prefer a convention system. As a party, we have not defined it. [passage omitted]

[Davila] Don't you like to debate with other candidates? The day of the municipal election, you did not take part in any debate. Some say that is your big shortcoming as a future candidate.

[Frei] The question involves several aspects. That of my avoiding confrontation I do not buy. During my senatorial campaign, I went to all the forums to which I was invited. I was invited to all the political debate programs. I appeared on television. I took part in hundreds of debates. As of the municipal campaign, I covered the entire country, visited more than 300 communes, and in every one of them I was interviewed by the media. This myth that is being created, that I am not open to communication.... Expecting me to be in the newspaper headlines day after day, expressing views on all issues is an entirely different consideration. This is my way of being, of operating. When I must talk, I do so at least once a week.

[Davila] You say it is a myth...

[Frei] Let me complete the thought. I do not believe the mission of a party president includes holding daily press conferences, opining on all topics, from the human to the divine. That is not truth. One is not knowledgeable on all topics. I, at least, do not consider myself God or a know-it-all. I consider myself a human being like everyone else, who has a need for expert advisers in order to be knowledgeable in various fields. When there are decisions to be made, I make them. And I have amply demonstrated this. On the day of the elections, I considered it my responsibility to be with my party. Then, on the Wednesday following the elections, on the Channel 7 forum, there were seven invitations to appear as guests. But the DC-PR [Radical Party]-SD [Social Democracy]-PHV [Humanist-Green Party] subpact, which obtained 36 percent of the votes was allocated just one seat. I do not consider that democratic. We should have been allocated at least two or three seats. And that is why I did not attend and will not attend until, at the very least, proportionality is respected. I shall go to all the forums and honor all invitations to appear, but only under conditions of equivalence and respect. Because the conditions under which any panelist goes and I go are different. I am president of the DC and a presidential precandidate. One cannot be exposing oneself day after day to extraneous situations. When a situation has called for the expressing of a view, I have done so, in all the major debates, and on all national issues. In sum, one has the right to define the conditions under which he or she will participate in a program.

[Davila] But you believe that is the existing image.

[Frei] Well, insofar as concerns a person's qualifications, everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. I do not consider myself a man who knows all the problems, or who is going to resolve all the worlds's or all the country's problems. The important thing is that people see one as being consistent in what he or she says and does. As for my having shortcomings, of course I have them. And because of that, I study, I work, I prepare myself. But I do not go around marketing myself, I do not go around creating *new looks*, and I do not have a marketing team. I always am what I am, and nothing more. Obviously, in all these respects, one must train oneself. Anyone who says this is not so is not speaking the truth. One is not a born master of communication by television, and it goes without saying that participation in forums and debates requires preparation, because it is part of one's public function. One must study the issues. And obviously there are techniques, there is an entirely professional side to all these things. And the communications media today are very fundamental. But I reiterate: I do not consider myself either God or a know-it-all. Everyone has his or her virtues and shortcomings. The important thing is to recognize one's own shortcomings and work at remedying them. That is a reality. What happens in my case is that the bars I must hurdle are continually being raised, a bit at a time.

[Davila] Higher than for the rest?

[Frei] Obviously. When I was a candidate for senator, I was being told: If you do not garner X-thousands of votes, it will be a disaster. When I ran for president of the party: If you get less than 60 percent of the votes, it will be a major defeat, and although those who win elections do so with 51 percent of the votes, I had to do so with I do not even know how many more. And now that I am president of the party: You must show that you have leadership ability, because if you do not, you will not make it. Well, I have been president of the party for eight

months, and we have wide-ranging agreements, and are working very well with the government.

[Davila] Why are these demands being placed on you? Because of your name, because of the path you have traveled? Why?

[Frei] I have said it a thousand times. They need have no qualms, because I am not going to make use of the law to change my name. They can rest easy. There is a law that entitles one to change one's name; but they can rest easy, because I am never going to use that law. I have never had any complexes; on the contrary, I have been extremely proud to bear the name I bear, but I am not competing with my father. [passage omitted].

[Davila] What does President Aylwin think in this regard?

[Frei] I have very good relations with the president. I have always known him. He had a very close relationship with my father. I was very young when he used to come to the house and to the party. And we have increasingly developed a very, very fluid relationship. I believe my relationship with the president is very positive. He is well aware of the great loyalty we as the party leadership board have entertained toward him in the form of actions. Obviously, the difference in ages is great. But today that is a somewhat absurd consideration. If I am 50...if I were 22...

[Davila] In the case of the week, that of Claro-Pinera [phone-tapping scandal], what is your view of the errors that were committed?

[Frei] I stand on what I said the first day. In short, call it spying, call it tracking, add whatever adjective one may, I believe those practices do not belong in the democratic system. They muddy up competition, discredit the political system, and discredit the players, and must therefore be forcefully condemned and not accepted under any concept. [passage omitted]

* Political Implications of Romo Case Assessed

92SM0606B Santiago HOY in Spanish 17, 23 Aug 92 pp 6-7, 9-10

[Article by Lucy Davila: "All Over Again"]

[Excerpts] The capture of the former DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] agent does more than reopen old wounds. It brings back old controversies: the fate of missing persons, the enforcement of the Amnesty Law, and the culpability of the army. The military sees the revival of these erstwhile issues as a ploy on the eve of a month with a clear institutional purpose.

Osvaldo Romo Mena, "Guaton [Fat Cat] Romo," has emerged from his Brazilian haven in the underground to take the political and police spotlight in our country. We need not report what has already been reported in chilling detail to realize that if he appears before Chilean courts, he will stir up the issue of human-rights violations more vigorously than the follow-up on other cases has during these two years of democratic government.

Certain tacit agreements that were made in early 1990 during the transition period and that the government and the army acknowledge never anticipated a problem like this. That is to say, the case of a lower-level official within the DINA hierarchy who informed on, arrested, and tortured members of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]. Such charges are apt to be proven if Romo returns to Chile and testifies in a case before the regular courts: the death of former MIR leader Alfonso Chanfreu.

The tacit agreements addressed the issue of human rights but had to do with better known cases such as the murder of Letelier or professional communists or the enforcement of the Amnesty Law. These agreements were not stipulated in detail but were understood as part of a "reasonable" common interpretation that the new regime was not going to turn its back on the "truth, justice to the extent possible, and reconciliation," but nor would it engage in a "witch hunt," as the military might have viewed a scenario of constant charges, lawsuits, reopened cases, and convictions.

As a solution the government proposed the National Commission of Truth and Reconciliation, or the Rettig Commission, to uncover the truth about what happened, with the courts following up on "potential" cases. This is the official version.

The government says today that neither the search for culprits nor the progress in court cases that have been at a standstill for years can be attributed solely to the Executive Branch. The courts are altogether independent in this regard. And if there has been progress, it is because the judges and police officials in charge of the proceedings have decided to be tougher or have received greater cooperation.

The fact is that Romo is going to arrive in Chile during a month that is special to the military and in the midst of a political debate inside the government about the candidates for 1993 and the imminent change of administration.

Therefore, his arrest, reported to the Interior Ministry with little notice and the result of Investigations work begun by former director Horacio Toro, first elicited surprise in La Moneda and then reflection on its consequences. If initially there was nervousness, today it is well hidden.

Nothing That Is Not Known

It bears remembering that Aylwin gave an unequivocal signal about the matter when he personally asked his Brazilian counterpart to have Romo expelled. This signal did not give rise to two interpretations among officials. Minister Enrique Correa reaffirmed this policy on Wednesday the 12th when he said that Romo could shed light on "horrible crimes that cry out for justice."

La Moneda says that this is the policy that the government has always favored by respecting the actions of the courts. Whenever light can be shed on a crime, it will be, and the authorities will cooperate to this end. And since Romo was found pursuant to a court order, there is nothing special or different about this case.

"The institutional order is not going to teeter if Romo testifies," is the Interior Ministry's view, based on the fact that nothing that Romo might say is unknown to public opinion, in other words, that there were repressive organizations to which civilians and men in uniform belonged, that there were unlawful arrests, disappearances, and torture. This analysis also takes into account the existence of the Amnesty Law.

The Amnesty Law

One of the sharpest debates that this case will prompt concerns the Amnesty Law. Not just because human-rights groups are pushing to have it repealed or because a pending bill is designed to interpret it, but also because Romo would benefit from it. A long-standing debate will thus resume: whether the Amnesty Law should be applied before an investigation. Supreme Court rulings have already said it should. The second point is whether the famous law ought to apply to crimes like kidnapping. The government and human-rights groups say it should not because there is no statute of limitations for such crimes. If the victim or his body is not found, the crime remains on the books. This is in keeping with the international treaties that the constitution recognizes.

A third pending point has to do with the jurisdiction of the regular courts to continue hearing the Chanfreu-Romo case.

The military judge last week hastily asked Judge Gloria Olivares, who is trying the case, to disqualify herself from continuing the investigation because all of her findings point to personnel with military immunity as the culprits. Except Romo, of course. The government feels that this was a poorly thought out decision by the judge advocate general of the army, Fernando Torres, and that it will cause the army nothing but trouble. There would not seem to be much basis for the request since it is not yet even clear whether Romo will appear in a Chilean courtroom. Secondly, the case has been before the courts for years, during which time the military justice system has not taken it up. Such sudden interest "could only conceal great fears" over the testimony that Romo might give, La Moneda is saying.

Army sources do not understand the move completely either. The presumption is that the consequences "were not gauged."

Some politicians think, however, that the military sent this signal in order to open negotiations on the matter when it becomes more ticklish.

It it well known, though, that Romo's arrival is going to cause more than one head to ache and could compel future informal negotiations between the government and the army.

There are two reasons. One is that the military will interpret this development as an attempt to dig up something that has already been buried. Second, it sullies the celebrations of Army Month, which begins this week (lasting from 20 August to 20 September) and this year more than ever is designed to give the institution a new look.

There is a third reason too. What Romo may say could open up other flanks for the army to deal with: the people he could compromise with his testimony, the status of the active-duty officers who were his superiors in DINA, what he may say about the fate of the victims.

What has not been ascertained all these years is the whereabouts of the missing. Not even the Rettig Commission, which tried to shed light on this issue, was able to come up with any major findings. It had to settle for recommending, as a true gesture of reconciliation, that anyone who had information reveal it, even if anonymously.

The government and the army feel, however, that Romo's testimony will reopen old cases but will not implicate more culprits than are already known.

Change of Agenda

The government is less clear about the repercussions of again addressing the most dramatic facet of the human-rights issue. There were no indications a few days ago that this would be on the political agenda, which is to create as calm a setting as possible for the change in cabinet, which will reportedly take place next month and which is designed to put a new and efficient face on the government during its last year. But now the emphasis will have to shift a bit, and more than that, the left, whether inside or outside the Coalition, will have an altogether unpredictable prominence as long as one of its main banners is being waved. Government and nongovernment circles agree that the left will be bolstered by the fact that the issue becomes more ticklish and has a greater impact on the public when it is taken up in isolation. In other words, while the Rettig Commission was at work, it was setting the stage for its document and the reactions to it. Today, the Romo affair has come on the scene while the political focus was "elsewhere": on the campaign and the prospects for 1994. [passage omitted]

The Upshot of the Report

And it is not just Romo. Compounding his role are the renewed debate on a bill, submitted by four Socialist senators, that interprets the Amnesty Law and the "harsh" words of Enrique Correa. Some of the more distrustful among the ranks of the military even see the press reports on Pinochet's new house as an attempt to upset their carefully prepared month.

To the government this interpretation is exaggerated. They insist that Romo could have shown up in May or

October, because the government's political wishes were never involved. As for the interpretative bill, they remind us that it was submitted early in the year.

Another side of the Romo affair has to do with the human-rights community. And its interpretation is quite different from the government's and the army's. Among those who sat on the Rettig Commission cases such as Romo's were not just a predictable upshot of their work but were also "desirable" in the sense that the report began shedding light on the cases, "gave official status to the truth," and sought reconciliation.

Attorney Jorge Correa, a former member of the commission, acknowledges that the report was misinterpreted as "closing" the issue of human rights. He says that they never felt that way, nor was this the government's intention in setting it up, adding that only now are we beginning to see the real purpose of its efforts. The first interpretation could have been due to a political debate that followed the submission of the report, a debate that focused solely on the individuals who were responsible for what happened, not, as the commission wanted, on an analysis of what happened to these individuals that made them commit the outrages described.

Correa does not want to talk just about Romo. No one on the commission does, because they did not identify culprits. But they still feel that there is no going back on this issue because it has really never been closed. It has not been possible to close it because the feeling that people have gone unpunished remains. Therefore, solving at least one of the cases that are blamed on Romo could be symbolic and make this situation less traumatic and more tolerable from now on. Such a symbol is what is missing. What there are more than enough of are explanations of what happened and which side caused it.

* Advantages of Chilean-U.S. Free Trade Noted

92SM0606C Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Aug 92 p B2

[Text] The possibility of eliminating nontariff barriers that currently hinder the unfettered access of Chilean fish products to the U.S. market is one of the advantages that this domestic production sector would gain from the signing of a free-trade agreement between Chile and the United States.

This can be gathered from a study that Manuel Achurra and Claudio Elgueta conducted as part of the task force established by the Confederation of Production and Commerce to look into the repercussions of a trade agreement on the Chilean economy.

The document says that Chile's fishing sector is not up against major tariff barriers in trade with the United States, inasmuch as most of the basic fish products and shellfish are not subject to tariffs unless they are canned.

It maintains, however, that the United States has a graduated tariff schedule marked by duties on products with greater value added, such as canned and smoked salmon, because there are industries to be protected here.

"Since there are no major tariff barriers, the strategy should be to take advantage of the growth potential in products with a higher value added, a potential that could be realized more quickly if there are no obstacles or duties as at present," the analysis adds.

In 1991 Chile exported $314 million worth of fish products to the U.S. market, the biggest items being salmon, swordfish, hake, eels, grouper, agar-agar, canned mackerel, fishmeal, shrimp, prawns, crab, and frozen king crab

The document says that the U.S. market for fresh and frozen items is very important to Chile and that these products have been more or less subject to nontariff restrictions involving hygiene, labeling, or dumping threats, as in the case of salmon and other products.

In this regard, the study indicates that Chile is up against serious threats to prevent the free access of some fish exports to the U.S. market. These threats have to do with a probable dumping charge and a ban on the use of synthetic dyes in the feeding of salmon.

"The excessive and arbitrary requirements for swordfish exports should also be treated as a current problem," it argues.

In this connection, the document asserts that "a free-trade agreement could help solve these problems by establishing clear-cut procedures for meeting requirements and standards."

Investment

In another vein, the study states that U.S. investment in traditional fishing activities is not to be expected in the wake of a potential bilateral trade treaty, inasmuch as the European countries are the ones most interested in this field, particularly Norway, Spain, England, and Holland, which have surplus fleet and need to locate it in other countries.

U.S. companies that are already established in our country could, however, foreseeably expand their investments if an agreement is in the offing, inasmuch as they export products that are in growing demand on that market.

* Foxley on Country-Risk Rating, Future Plans

92SM0608B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Aug 92 pp B1, B5

[Text] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley said that for some time now, privatizations have stopped being the big issue in Chile, and that currently, the most important issue is how the private sector can become involved, and at the same time do good business, in projects having to do with investment in infrastructure that have heretofore usually been the province of the public sector.

"We are prepared to facilitate the fullest possible integration of private sector entrepreneurs, in all the activities related to infrastructural construction projects and their subsequent administration, under a system of concessions, ports, roads, airports, and whatever else is necessary," he explained.

The minister said that in this manner three objectives would be achieved: The country's total investment would be increased, thus contributing to increased economic growth; the bottlenecks throttling the export process, owing to the lack of infrastructure, would be decreased; and a new area of cooperation between the public and private sectors would be found, enabling the achievement of a strong economic growth into the next century, with all sectors involved that want to cooperate in this effort, and regardless of the government's niche in the political spectrum.

Speaking at a seminar on "1992-1993 Social and Economic Outlooks," organized by the Chilean Institute of Promotion And Development (IPRODE), Foxley enumerated a number of factors that are preventing Chile's international country-risk rating from exceeding triple B. These factors, he said, include Chile's present shortage of infrastructure.

It is not as if nothing is being done in this sector, he said, citing the $300 million invested in infrastructure in 1989, and the $570 million earmarked for 1992. He explained that the strong export dynamic and the very significant rate at which the economy is growing are generating a transportation and communications gap in the means needed for moving those products.

Foxley pointed out that this year: Chile's economy is definitively on its way up and growing at a 7.5-percent rate; a 13-percent yearly rate of inflation is on its way down; and a solid balance of payments is assured, with a trade surplus that once again will amount to 4 percent of GDP [Gross Domestic Product].

Moreover, he said that with a projected 15-percent rate of investment growth for the year, meaning that production capacity has increased at double rate of growth of the economy, the outlook for next year and the years to come is reassuring and conducive to peace of mind.

He pointed out that another factor preventing the country from warranting a better risk rating, is that it is still feeling the effects of the 1982-1983 financial crisis, during which the Central Bank had to intervene to rescue the banks. In doing so, it incurred a big loss that was transferred to the Treasury and that, today, translates into a shortage of cash reserves at the bank of issue, placing constraints on monetary policy that affect its ability to lower inflation more quickly.

Education is, in Foxley's opinion, another of Chile's weaknesses. In this regard, he posted as a challenge the conversion of an education system of broad coverage, but "extremely routine, antiquated, and repetitive as to content," into an education system that imparts versatility and prepares high school students to perform in various lines of work or trades.

"We must go to Germany together with entrepreneurs and government officials, to study in depth the practical aspects of its dual education system (combining theoretical teaching in schools with practice in industries), which I believe is an extremely effective and valid experience."

In secondary schools there is too much rigidity and compartmentalization of careers and traditional occupations—said Foxley—when what is needed instead is a flexible and creative system capable of adjusting its training curricula to the requirements of business and enterprises as they develop during the profound productive transformation process that is now taking place at breakneck speed in Chile.

Equally pressing, he said, is the need for enterprises to have a permanent retraining and advanced training system for its personnel.

He mentioned the deterioration of the quality of urban life as another factor that is depressing Chile's rating, citing the problems of vehicular traffic congestion, dust, mud, flooding, and raw sewage water running through the streets of impoverished villages.

He warned that if this problem is not addressed in time, those who live in the city, including those located in more privileged and protected quarters, will end up feeling the latent threat of those who live in the worst of conditions and make themselves felt, one way or another, through criminal actions, robberies, violence, and antisocial acts, that bring on the deterioration of the city as a whole.

"It does not take much to understand," he said, "that if a country decides to permanently relegate a large group of the population to the fringes of society, sooner or later this large group is going to turn against the system and end up destabilizing the functioning of the country as a whole."

It is Foxley's opinion that civic participation must be encouraged. And in this respect, he referred to the great challenge inherent in judicious administration and operation on the part of regional and municipal governments.

He expressed optimism as to the country's future and the consensuses reached, but he warned that there is also the enormous responsibility of safeguarding the progress achieved, considering above all that the forthcoming electoral period will bring forth public debates and differentiations of positions on various issues.

The foregoing is normal in a democracy—said Foxley—but "the important thing is not to deviate from the main-line trajectory we are presently following. Not to fall into the populist temptation that is going to spring up—let us not deceive ourselves—from both extremes of the political spectrum, and that is going to cause trouble at times in the middle of the spectrum as well."

At this point in time—he said—one must develop the ability to tell people the facts as they are. For example, that this is not a rich country, but on the contrary quite a poor one, where, as is the case with any middle class family, progress in life is expensive, and headway is made very slowly.

In response to a question, Foxley expressed the opinion that if the tax reform is overturned in 1994, Chile will take longer to eradicate poverty, and that therefore, in his judgment, it is too early to say that simultaneously with the eradication of poverty over the next decade, the tax reform should be eliminated because it damages the country's productive apparatus and investment capability.

Foxley pointed out that he fails to perceive any damage being done to investment by this reform, since investment this year will reach the highest level ever for the country, at 21 percent of GDP. Nor does the tax reform appear to be having a negative effect on the generating of new jobs, as it was claimed that it would, since in 12 months, employment has grown by 220,000 jobs and women's employment is growing at the annualized rate of 8 percent.

"The measure of things is taken from these facts, not from lengthy speeches—designed to appeal to the large masses—that say all of this can be eliminated in five years. The solution to eradicating extreme poverty lies in a concrete determination to be solidary. This requires that those who have more make a gesture of voluntary support through a law, and put at the government's disposal the necessary resources to shorten this period of time. The rest is demagogy, rhetoric, and lack of earnestness in politics."

To another question, on taxation, he answered that headway is being made in the preparation of a bill enabling Chilean enterprises that have invested abroad to deduct the taxes paid abroad, upon bringing the profits back into the country.

He added that this bill is intended to encourage enterprises to invest not in "tax heavens" or countries where there are no taxes, but rather in those countries where they can expect better returns, and at the same time to encourage enterprises to bring their money back to Chile to generate more investment and employment here.

* Central Bank Head on Exchange Rate Policy

92SM0608C Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Aug 92 p B1

[Text] The president of the Central Bank, Roberto Zahler, stated that the current exchange rate represents the level around which equilibrium will be achieved in the intermediate and long terms, and that the value of the dollar is consistent with the bank of issue's estimates of the current account deficits over time.

Mr. Zahler voiced these statements yesterday during the seminar on "Business Administration and Freedom of Exchange" organized by the Association of Trade Engineering Graduates of the University of Chile.

With respect to the exchange rate, he stated that the value of the dollar for the month of August to date has averaged over 20 pesos higher than the average for the month of May of this year, amounting to a nominal increase of 6 percent and a real increase of over 5 percent. "Thus, as of today, the observed exchange rate is only 3 percent below the agreed dollar par value," he said.

He pointed out that, over the last few days, the upward trend has continued even though the Central Bank has not been buying dollars on the market through the dirty float.

This being the case—he said—"I fail to understand the insistent predictions by some analysts, and some communications media, of a forthcoming drop of the exchange rate, to the bottom of the range, within the near term."

Continuing on the subject of the exchange rate, he said that the level reached by the dollar is one of equilibrium, meaning the level necessary to achieve, in time, domestic savings levels of the order of 3 or 4 percent of GDP

He said that the bank of issue has decided to give a growing role to the marketplace in the determining of interest rates and the exchange rate.

As regards the latter, he pointed out the measures adopted by the Central Bank to extend to plus or minus 10 percent the range over which the exchange rate will be allowed to float freely, to implement the statistical currency basket, and to extend the limit on the exchange position of the banks, all with the aim of diminishing the role of the Central Bank in the fixing of currency values.

He said that the objective is to continue advancing along this line of action.

Opening of Capital Account

Under another heading, Roberto Zahler, rejecting criticism accusing the Central Bank of "inaction," referred to the question of opening-up of the capital account.

He pointed out that the Bank's policy in this regard is to liberalize and simplify the body of exchange laws gradually, since "any hasty decision can produce harmful effects on the economy."

He emphasized that the idea is to adopt timely, but not hasty, decisions. "The problem of a hasty opening is that it can generate serious economic upheavals, such as brusque changes in the real exchange rate, or problems in the financial system," he said.

In this area, he referred to experiences with the indiscriminate opening of capital accounts in some Latin American countries, resulting, he said, in "thunderous failures and capital accounts that ended up even more closed than they had been initially."

He dwelt on the desirability of a growing insertion of the country in the international financial markets, but emphasized that the success of the process depends on not generating serious upheavals in the national economy.

He also stated that the advances made in the opening-up of the capital account have been considerable and cited the measures instituted by the Central Bank, such as: the setting up of norms for the marketing of ADR's [expansion not given] and bonds; changes to Chapter XII [not further identified]; and provisions enabling the AFP's [Pension Fund Administration] to invest abroad; and others.

Since the instituting of changes to Chapter XII, permitting Chileans to invest abroad, he said, $400 million have left the country. This is twice the cumulative total that left the country under the previous legislation.

He said there are three areas that still require advances in the opening of the capital account, to provide them with increased freedom to invest abroad. These are: The banking entities; insurance companies; and mutual funds.

* Exporters Comment on 'Poisoned Grapes' Case

92SM0606A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Aug 92 pp B1, B5

[Text]**Diplomatic Negotiations in Poisoned Grape Affair**

The Chilean Government is engaged in diplomatic negotiations with the United States to reach an agreement on compensation in the poisoned grapes case. The negotiations are being conducted before any decision to turn to the Bryan Commission.

Foreign Relations Minister Enrique Silva Cimma reported this yesterday to the president of the Chilean Exporters Association, Ronald Bown, and the president of the Federation of Fruit Growers (Fedefruta), Ricardo Ariztia.

After the meeting the business-group leaders reported that the diplomatic negotiations are being channeled through the U.S. ambassador in Chile, Curtis Kamman, and an answer is expected within the next 45 days.

If the response is negative, there will be a reappraisal of the situation to decide whether to resort to the remaining option: the Bryan Commission.

Ariztia recalled that the suit filed by private parties calls for compensation of $212 million. This is less than the actual damages because it includes only the losses from the embargo on Chilean fruit that could be demonstrated through documentation. Losses in the country and losses arising from the fruit left unharvested in the orchards totaled another $140 million.

As to the willingness of the businessmen to reduce the amount of compensation that they are calling for, the two leaders indicated that they represent more than 2,000 growers and more than 120 export firms, which are the ones that would have to make such a decision.

Bown and Ariztia met with the foreign minister to tell him about the steps that they have been taking in the suit over the cyanide poisoning and to ask him to have the government turn to the Bryan Commission.

The leaders said that they were "fully satisfied" with the report on how the government and the foreign minister are conducting the negotiations and that they agreed with this preliminary step.

"We realize that we must keep on working in a joint or coordinated manner. This has been the case, and when all is said and done our request with regard to the Bryan Commission still stands, in the understanding that once these preliminary diplomatic negotiations are over and their results can be seen, we will have another coordination meeting to decide the final approach that both the private sector and the government will take," Bown stated.

If the negotiations are successful, he felt that it might not be necessary to turn to the Bryan Commission, because an agreement between the parties, which is what the minister is negotiating, is a possibility.

Bown added that the Chilean Government never failed to regard diplomatic negotiations as a possibility because they were the first option brought up. Filing a formal protest first and calling for diplomatic negotiations is a basic element in international relations. This is what the government did last year, and it has continued along this path by exchanging notes and holding personal talks.

The export association leader clarified that the legal proceedings that the businessmen have chosen are proceeding at a normal pace, in the understanding that the U.S. Government has already expressed its desire not to continue with a normal suit.

Therefore, he felt that this option is going to fade over time and that its chances for success are going to depend on the decision that the judge hands down between now and the end of the year. This implies, however, that there will be successive appeals, eventually reaching the Supreme Court, and that it will be practically impossible to hammer out a specific agreement in a reasonable amount of time because of the delays and cost.

Bown estimated that a normal court case, in which conclusive evidence of the responsibility of U.S. authorities in this case is presented, could yield a result in four or five years.

"Therefore, we think that the conditions are developing for a different approach, whether diplomacy or the Bryan Commission."

He explained that the Bryan Commission is constituted pursuant to a decision by the parties and that the commission's report would depend on such a decision. He recalled that when a similar commission was constituted once before, after the Chilean Government canceled an ex-gratia compensation in the Letelier affair, a decision was made in a relatively reasonable amount of time.

Bown thus felt that a result could be achieved through the Bryan Commission much sooner than the four or five years of a normal court case.

He indicated that the Bryan Commission is not a court but rather a forum for resolving conflicts, that the two countries established it quite a while ago, and that it carries great moral authority. The commission analyzes the facts and reports its findings on what is reasonable. The two countries negotiate on the basis of its report, and if they cannot agree, they resort to an arbiter or an international arbitration panel.

Ariztia also felt that the poisoned grapes must remain an issue in any sort of negotiations with the U.S. Government, including a free-trade agreement. "This issue ought to be closed before negotiations," he said.

Colombia

'Operation Green Ice' Under Way in Medellin

PA3009030292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report by Miriam Ortiz and Diego Hernan Canal]

[Text] Operation Green Ice continues to yield results. Colombian authorities claim the operation will concentrate on our country, where they expect a large number of arrests will be made in connection with drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

We have learned that large international operation called Green Ice is under way in Medellin. Authorities carried out 22 raids on houses and stores and arrested eight persons in connection with drug trafficking and money laundering activities. Everything seems to indicate the biggest fish have yet to be caught.

Authorities believe Operation Green Ice will culminate in Colombia because the persons in charge of shipping drugs abroad and the businessmen willing to launder money are walking around free here.

[Begin Defense Minister Rafael Pardo recording] The Colombian police helped by sending information and exchanging intelligence data with police organizations in different parts of the world to coordinate the actions that have been carried out in several parts of the world. [end recording]

Preparations for the operation have been going on for one year. The operation allowed the authorities to learn the names of new Colombian drug traffickers and other national cartels that operate under the cover of those we already know and send tons of cocaine to the United States and Europe.

[Begin Administrative Department of Security Director Fernando Brito recording] There is no doubt about this. We know there is an important drug trafficking center in the Pereira region, but we have no information on the person who is presumably the most important cocaine distributor in the Pereira region. [end recording]

In addition to this operation, which primarily took place in Italy and in San Diego and Los Angeles, California, another operation was launched simultaneously in New York. This one is known as Operation Snoop. Fifteen Colombians were arrested during this operation. They were in charge of receiving drugs, which came from Colombia, delivering them to their clients and collecting the money, which was later sent to Colombia via bank accounts and companies operating in Austria, the United States, and Switzerland.

In Spain, Judge Baltazar Garzon, who issued the arrest warrants that have already been carried out in the operation, has started an investigation of those persons arrested in Spain.

Moreover, 112 bank accounts have been frozen throughout the world in connection with Operation Green Ice; $54 million has been deposited in those accounts. All the money is apparently the result of drug money laundering activities. Sixty of those accounts belong to Colombians and at least four of the frozen accounts belong to banks and financial corporations in this country.

[Begin recording] [Banking Superintendent Jose Elias Melo] Some of the accounts, only a few, belong to financial organizations.

[Unidentified correspondent] How many of them?

[Melo] Four financial organizations, as far as we know. [end recording]

It has been learned the State Bank, Valle Financial Corporation, Western Financial Corporation, Bank of Antioquia, and Banco Real reportedly own those accounts. These organizations are currently assessing the extent of the judicial measures. Meanwhile, banking authorities in Colombia said the situation does not affect these banks' international operations.

[Begin Banking Association President Cesar Gonzalez recording] This does not entail the adoption of legal measures against the banks or investigations of the banks as such. Instead, it involves legal action and investigations against the banks' account holders. [end recording]

A sizable number of the frozen accounts transferred money made from fake exports, a method commonly used in money-laundering.

[Begin National Exporters Association President Jorge Ramirez Ocampo] Last year we reported the existence of fake invoices and exports and stated we believed this involved drug trafficking money. [end recording]

The funds frozen in the course of Operation Green Ice were mainly in Philadelphia, New Jersey, Portland, New York, and San Francisco. According to initial reports from the United States, approximately $5 million were

frozen in the Swiss Bank, Banco Real, and Atlantic Bank. The operation is far from over and the amount of frozen funds could increase.

U.S. Freezes Exporters' Checking Accounts

PA2909043392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] In the United States, a judge has ordered that exporters' checking accounts at Colombian financial institutions be frozen. A communique from the Finance Ministry confirms the measure and warns that it is intended against money launderers and does not imply that Colombian institutions with legal accounts in that country are being investigated.

Former Guerrilla Leader Chalita on Peace

PA3009041892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Report by Carlos Julio Betancourt]

[Text] Marcos Chalita, former guerrilla leader and Constituent Assembly member, was released on 29 September from the Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations cells in Santa Fe de Bogota. He was visibly moved, and was surrounded by 100 activists of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance. Chalita issued an appeal to the government, urging it to endorse the peace accords.

[Begin recording] [Betancourt] What message do you have for the government following your release?

[Chalita] I urge it to make every effort to support the peace process. I think the government must take whatever steps are necessary because peace does not only entail putting down weapons. Peace also involves resolving the critical social problems the Colombians face. The country's housing, education, the labor problems have not been resolved. There are many social problems. Our message to the national government is to invest what it has. It must prove its will, and this should be proved to the Colombian people with facts. The situation can be solved but this must be proved with facts.

[Betancourt] Are you bitter?

[Chalita] No, sir. I have felt mistreated, as does the organization. We have been mistreated because I think Carlos Pizarro's death.... [Chalita pauses] There are currently 76 comrades in prison and more than 100 comrades have been killed. I would say the process has been mistreated.

[Betancourt] What has failed in the peace process?

[Chalita] The lack of will. The lack of will. [end recording]

Marcos Chalita will be sworn in on 1 October as National Assembly deputy for Huila Department.

Government, Demobilized Groups Agree on 'Summit'

PA2709135792 Santa Fe De Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Sep 92 pp 1A, 6A

[Text] Business groups, Congress, as well as political parties will now have a voice and voting power in the reinsertion policies. These groups will also actively participate in the policies that are henceforth outlined.

In addition, the government and four demobilized groups have agreed to develop a strategy aimed at rejecting violence and all factors that threaten stability.

This agreement was reached at the conclusion of a meeting on 21 September at Narino Presidential Palace. The following people participated in the meeting: Government Minister Humberto de la Calle; Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez Diaz, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda, Government Deputy Minister Hector Riveros Serrato, presidential peace adviser Horacio Serpa, and social policy adviser Alejandro Linares.

The demobilized groups were represented by Senator Vera Grabe from 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance (AD/M-19); Carlos Franco from Hope, Peace, and Liberty; and Pablo Tatay from the Quintin Lame Commando Unit. The former guerrilla representatives denounced the murder of more than 100 former fighters and the continued imprisonment of approximately 76 demobilized fighters.

During the next few days the government will issue four new decrees aimed at promoting new initiatives to prevent the process from stagnating, as well as to allow the conclusion of the reinsertion process with the four demobilized groups.

The first of the four decrees proposes the reform of the Normalization Council [Consejo de Normalizacion] in order to include representatives from the business sector and diverse political forces.

The second decree is intended to expedite the land distribution program to former guerrillas.

John Gomez Crespo, a Presidency Office of Reinsertion official, acknowledged that despite all the efforts made to date, it was necessary to modify the current reinsertion program.

A third decree will allow former fighters to run for public office.

Finally, the decrees that have been issued to date will complement each other in order to conclude the pardon and amnesty process.

In addition, the need to strengthen links between Cordoba cattlemen and Uraba banana growers—and with the government and former guerrillas spokesmen—was acknowledged, so that it will now be possible to design policies to achieve peace in those areas of conflict. After a two-year period, these areas are once again being harassed by the guerrillas and the self-defense groups.

In conclusion, Government Deputy Minister Hector Riveros and Carlos Franco have been selected to organize the so-called "Summit for Peace." This summit is scheduled to take place 15-16 October with the participation of civilians, former guerrillas, the government, the Armed Forces, as well as regional authorities.

AD/M-19 Senator Vera Grabe feels the step taken on 21 September is "very significant" and entails a definite beginning of peace in Colombia. She noted the positive attitude of the government during the meeting.

Furthermore, a joint communique was issued, the text of which follows:

The national government representatives along with representatives from the demobilized groups AD/M-19; Hope, Peace, and Liberty; Revolutionary Workers Party; and Quintin Lame gathered here on 21 September and hereby attest the following:

1. The peace process in Colombia has had a positive consequence on national reconciliation, including the incorporation of the former guerrilas into civilian and political life.

2. The participants in the meeting agreed to strengthen initiatives that will contribute to the reconciliation process. In this regard, it was agreed to convene a national peace summit to debate and propose mechanisms for a peace strategy.

3. To that end, a coordination mechanism was established between the government and the demobilized groups to establish an agenda for the summit. This agenda will seek to include all Colombians in the search for peace.

Former Minister Interviewed on Peace Forum

PA2809171592 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Interview with former Minister Carlos Rodado Noriega by unidentified reporters in Caracol Network's studio; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [First reporter] Nearly 60 Colombians met over the weekend of 26 September in Paipa to discuss the state of the Colombian Government's talks, negotiations, or efforts to find a political solution to the problem of violence in Colombia.

[Second reporter] The forum concluded that the peace process has deteriorated to the extent that there is a need to readdress the process, discuss the issue of regional dialogue, and touch on all topics so the talks that were virtually destroyed can resume.

[First reporter] Did the meeting try to give a new direction to the peace process in Colombia? Carlos Rodado Noriega, the former minister who is with us every day at the negotiating table and who participated in the Paipa meeting will answer that question. Was the goal to find the mechanism needed to resume the peace talks or was it simply to discuss peace policies openly and spontaneously?

[Rodado] This was a dialogue held behind closed doors. There are things I can say about it and things I cannot. The peace process is facing a crisis, and the meeting concluded that it must be reformed or presented again. An institutional reorganization of the peace process mechanisms is needed.

The Advisory Board for Peace Issues is now a very small, plain office staffed by officials from a single party. I think the consensus of those who attended the forum is that there is a need to reorganize the Advisory Board Office and establish anm expanded national peace council involving political parties, churches, unions, and other segments of the population to give the peace process greater strength and legitimacy.

[First reporter] Was there discussion of the guerrillas' recalcitrant attitude as reflected in their violent actions?

[Rodado] Yes, there was an analysis of the guerrillas' attitude. It was said that there is a need to create an atmosphere conducive to resuming the dialogue; that atmosphere, of course, would be undermined if the guerrillas insist on intensifying their violent actions.

[Second reporter] Which has had more of a negative impact: the small size of the Advisory board Office made up of officials of a single party—that is, the bureaucratic-political aspect—or the guerrillas' insistence on displaying their power through attacks on the public force and civilians? What has affected the peace process more?

[Rodado] Undoubtedly, the persistence of violent actions have greatly hindered the course of the negotiations. There is, however, a need to make a new presentation, to reform the peace process. Peace is not a single party's problem; it is a challenge for the entire nation. The institutional mechanisms currently available to the government do not give the peace process the scope and legitimacy it requires.

Three Police Generals To Command Key Garrisons

PA2809230792 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Sep 92 p 9A

[Text] Generals will now command more than 20,000 policemen in the country's five leading cities. The police reported that the presence of high-ranking officers in these garrisons will facilitate carrying out activities against criminals, particularly in Medellin and Antioquia, where one brigadier general each has been appointed.

On 22 September General Jairo Rodriguez Quinonez, Gen. Carlos Alberto Pulido Barrantes, and Gen. Luis Pineda Perez were designated metropolitan police commanders in Valle de Aburra, Antioquia, and Bucaramanga, respectively.

Their appointments come after those of Gen. Guillermo Diettes, Gen. Jose Dario Rodriguez, and Gen. Fabio Campos Silva, who command the police garrisons at Bogota, Cali, and Barranquilla, respectively.

Ecuador

Political Parties Vie for Opposition Leadership

PA2909154792 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Less than 50 days after Sixto Duran-Ballen's government took office, several political parties have declared their opposition. It can be said that the struggle for the title of opposition leader has begun.

How has the government forced the political parties into the opposition so early? Everyone agrees political mistakes have led to a loss of popularity, which is already reflected in the polls. Some people like Social Democrat analyst Juan Cueva think there is a fifth column within the government, while others like Social Christian Javier Neira see a lack of leadership. Within this context, two parties claim to lead the rising opposition: the Democratic Left [ID] and the Social Christian Party [PSC]. The former accuses the latter of holding the same views as Duran-Ballen's administration, while the latter accuses the former of having permitted the current government's victory and acquiring important functions in the National Congress. Both parties said, however, they will approve good measures and will criticize wrong moves.

In the meantime, the ID is becoming increasingly radical, partly due to Duran-Ballen's attacks on the previous administration. In contrast, the PSC recently committed itself to reach tactical agreements in Congress with the pro-government parties. This complicates the strategic mission of [word indistinct] to lead the opposition. Rumors have begun to circulate that the PSC may be thinking about ultimately joining the government to bear the burden of exercising power.

However, Javier Neira stated that his party maintains the most coherent position in the political arena. He added that his party is the only one that opposes the government and at the same time offers some alternatives in the face of [words indistinct] economic measures. According to Neira, these alternatives are projects for creating a social compensation fund and an agriculture credit fund. Neira accused the ID of governing the country with the Duran-Ballen administration. He added that he cannot understand how a party like the Popular Democracy Party won the presidency of the Congress or how, together with their former enemies—the Ecuadoran Roldosist Party—it chairs the Budget Commission.

Deputy Andres Vallejo of ID described this position as straddling both sides of the moral fence. In other words, they get everything from the government, cooperate in everything, including the Cabinet, and they even observe the same principles. Then they lead everyone into believing they are part of the opposition. According to Andres Vallejo, recent maneuvers by the government bloc have not gone unnoticed. Although the government bloc supported Carlos Vallejo's election as Congress president, they soon turned their back on him to enter an alliance with the PSC and then sought to reorganize the commissions appointed by the Congress president according to the law.

In turn, Neira emphatically states that there are numerous reasons for us to believe that the PSC follows an incorruptible line. He adds that the PSC is the only party that has demonstrate the gap between his party and the government, and the only one that has criticized the measures and proposed alternate solutions. Andres Vallejo advocactes a rational opposition and says the government clearly exhibits Social Christian leanings.

According to Andres Vallejo, the PSC supports the government party. He says his party does not subscribe to the same economic outlook and therefore rejects them. Ecuadoreans will soon realize that the only alternative in this country is center left. In light of this, there is one factor that will soon test the positions of both parties, as well as the confusing relationships that have formed in Congress despite the fact that lately there is a certain consolidation between the government and the PSC: The trial against Minister Barreiro threatens to become an all-out battle to show who is the toughest opponent.

Information Minister Says No State TV Channel

PA2709135692 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Pedro Zambrano, information and tourism minister, believes in restructuring everything in the former National Communications Secretariat. The minister also thinks a state television channel is not necessary.

[Begin recording] [Zambrano] We do not see the state participating in public communications in the near future. We would like to coordinate and regulate this activity but you correspondents are doing just fine.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Zambrano] As the assistant secretary explained, government work will now be carried out better and more efficiently. I suggest there has been some misunderstanding. We have not done some things right. I am referring to the people in the government; that is, these things could have been done better. We are learning from experience. In these few days, we have learned that some modifications must be made, and as soon as the ministry is completely organized, we will begin to work on that. [end recording]

Regarding the well-known instructions on communications and the access to information, the minister emphasized:

[Begin recording] [Zambrano] I think the people have every right to be fully informed on what is going on in their government and country. We are not against the

weekly news conference by the ministers of state, but there will be more opportunities to hear the people's demands through you, the correspondents, more often.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Zambrano] The instructions are very interesting, very valuable, but I think they will also be modified.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Zambrano] Not exactly. The Information and Tourism Ministry plays a different, well-defined role. The assistant secretaries have already explained this brilliantly. This ministry was created by the president for a different purpose. We will not, however, neglect supervising information on national matters. In every section of the government, there are officials authorized to give information, whether on economy, politics, or administration. As the circumstances demand, both the deputy minister and the minister will always be ready to report to the media without our being affected as spokesmen for the government.

[Correspondent] Will the networks disappear?

[Zambrano] The networks disappeared a long time ago.

[Correspondent] How about national linkups?

[Zambrano] I do not recall any national linkups or [word indistinct] on this occasion, except for those stipulated by law. [end recording]

Paraguay

Rodriguez Urges Police Chief To Make Arrests

PY3009132392 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 Sep 92 p 15

[Excerpt] President Andres Rodriguez met with Police Chief Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez at Government House this morning. During the meeting, Rodriguez urged General Sanchez Gonzalez to expedite the arrest of those allegedly involved in the theft and smuggling of cars into Bolivia through the Chaco region, as was reported to police by Colonel DEM [Staff School Graduate] Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas.

Speaking about the meeting, Sanchez Gonzalez said: "I was summoned by the president, who urged me to arrest Juan de Dios Martinez, Carlos Manuel Maggi Rolon, and others who are implicated in the car smuggling case..."

He added that Rodriguez is greatly concerned about promptly clearing up this case and establishing who is responsible for this crime.

Responding to journalists accredited to Government House, Sanchez Gonzalez later stated that he has received a new arrest warrant for Martinez, Maggi Rolon, Roberto Caceres, a certain Insfran, a certain Hugo, a certain Ojeda, a certain Orrego, and a certain Papi Aguirre. The arrest warrant was issued by Third Court Criminal Judge Jose Agustin Fernandez. Sanchez Gonzalez added: "It is almost a second arrest warrant issued against the same people because another judge Angel Barchini also issued one. We are determined to find these people." [passage omitted]

Asuncion Rally Held Supporting Gonzalez Rojas

PY2809033392 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 Sep 92 p 3

[Text] A rally called by the Coordinating Board Against Impunity, Corruption and the Policy of Entrenchment [Coordinadora No a la Impunidad, la Corrupcion y el Oparei—final word in Guarani] took place in Uruguaya Square yesterday evening. Some of the demonstrators, Colorado Party members who carried banners supporting presidential candidates for the 1993 elections, such as Luis Maria Argana and Gustavo Diaz de Vivar, were greeted with boos when they arrived at the square, and arguments ensued. The organizers urged all those attending the rally to carry only banners or placards supporting a political party, so as to avoid using the rally to advance particular interests.

This request was repeated throughout the ceremony, which took place at the National Pantheon, but there were no further incidents during the march toward the Pantheon.

The demonstrators sang slogans supporting Colonel Gonzalez Rojas and condemning the Army officers implicated in the illegal trafficking of cars to Bolivia, such as: "Hurrah for Gonzalez; blow Garcete up in pieces!"; "All night and all day, the brass steal cars, ole!"; and "Stamp out corruption in Paraguay!"

Once they arrived at the Pantheon, the ceremony was opened with a speech given by Gonzalez Rojas' son, Luis, who said that his father did not hesitate for a moment to risk his military career in order to point the finger at corruption. He was cheered by the crowd at the end of his speech.

Afterwards, a message by [former Asuncion archbishop] Monsignor Ismael Rolon was read. In his message Msgr. Rolon recalled that at the beginning of the transition period President Andres Rodriguez, General Lino Cesar Oviedo, and the attorney general pledged to eradicate corruption. Rolon pointed out that the need to take the cover off these affairs was urgent, as the public is already tired of promises.

Domingo Laino, from the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party], and Guillermo Caballero Vargas, from the National Encounter movement, were the only presidential hopefuls to attend. No Colorado Party presidential nominees were present, only Argana and Diaz de Vivar supporters. Members of the congressional Illegal Actions Investigations Committee, such as Waldino Lovera, Carlos Romero Pereira, and Miguel Angel Ramirez, also attended. Hermes Rafael Saguier and Jorge Galli, Col. Gonzalez Rojas' attorneys, were also present.

Trial and Jail for the Corrupt and Criticism of the Government

More than 20 speakers representing political parties with or without congressional representation, trade unions, and social and indigenous organizations demanded the prosecution of the generals involved in the charges against Col. Gonzalez Rojas, and the latter's promotion to general for his attitude, which the speakers described as brave and heroic. A trade union representative said that the working class had already promoted Col. Gonzalez Rojas to general.

There was also plenty of criticism of the Rodriguez administration, which the speakers held directly responsible for the unlawful actions.

Paper Reports U.S. 'Concern' for Gonzalez

PY2909151292 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 29 Sep 92 p 92

[Text] Unidentified individuals have fired several times outside the house of Colonel Catalino Gonzalez Rojas, but the house was not hit. This information was released by Gonzalez Rojas' wife Gladys Zalazar. In view of these events, the United States has asked the Paraguayan Government to conserve the physical integrity of Gonzalez Rojas and his family.

The attack against Gonzalez Rojas' house occurred on the evening of 24 September, but the case was not reported because the family considered it an isolated incident. "However, now that we know what happened to Saguier [referring to the shooting incident that occurred at the home of Dr. Hermes Rafael Saguier, the lawyer of Gonzales Rojas], we are sure that the shooting was an attack, and we are very afraid," Mrs. Gonzalez Rojas said yesterday.

She said that in the evening of 24 September, after her husband was questioned by a judge, she and her children at about 2230 went to have dinner at the house of one of the lawyers. "Upon our return our neighbors told us that several individuals had fired into the air outside our house. At the beginning, we did not attach much importance to the incident because we were not home and the house was not hit," she said.

"Now, however, things have changed. We are afraid because those shots were not fired by chance, and proof of this is what happened to Dr. Saguier," Mrs. Gonzalez Rojas said.

Judicial sources yesterday reported that the United States has asked the Paraguayan Government to conserve the physical safety of Col. Gonzalez Rojas and his family. The request was made by U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman to President Andres Rodriguez during a meeting they held over the past weekend.

The request shows that the "uncovering" of corruption is being closely followed by the government of George Bush, which wants total security for Gonzalez Rojas and his family until the clarification of his charges. On 28 September, when Gonzalez Rojas went to the Justice Palace, he was guarded by two military men and some 10 policemen.

Presidency Issues Communique

PY2909171392 Asuncion Radio Primero de Marzo in Spanish 1610 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Presidential Spokesman Guillermo Yaluff has read a communique that clarifies a report on an alleged request by Colonel Catalino Gonzalez Rojas to the U.S. Government to conserve his physical safety in connection with the trial that he is now facing.

[Begin recording] Communique to the public.

In light of the publication in the 29 September HOY newspaper of a report that the United States has asked the Paraguayan Government to conserve the physical safety of Col. Gonzalez Rojas and his family, and that the request was made by U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman to President Andres Rodriguez during a meeting they held over the weekend, the Presidency hereby reports:

1. That any concern that the U.S. Government might have over the safety of the above person was never mentioned during the meeting between President Rodriguez and Ambassador Glassman.

2. That the Paraguayan Government is actually concerned about the safety of all inhabitants of the Republic without exception.

3. That the Presidency refutes this report because it is inaccurate and inappropriate and because it only serves to increase confusion at a time when the authorities are engaged in clarifying facts about which the entire community is interested.

Thank you very much. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shots Fired at Home of Gonzalez Rojas' Lawyer

PY2809202692 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Sep 92 p 15

[Excerpt] At approximately 0200 the home of Dr. Hermes Rafael Saguier was shot at, presumably with a machine gun. Saguier is an Authentic Radical Liberal Party politician and currently one of the lawyers assisting Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas, who made statements related to the participation of high-ranking military officers in the trafficking of stolen vehicles.

The front wall of the house, located at 1451 Santa Ana Street, was hit by a burst of gunfire, damaging an automobile with Asuncion license plate No. 33176 that had both front and rear windows broken because a bullet went through both before hitting one of the walls inside the garage.

According to the report, the house was shot at from a moving automobile, taking into account the trajectory of

the bullets. The attack woke up a neighbor, who said the shooting was made from a motorcycle. [passage omitted]

Attack Said by Car Smugglers

PY2909020292 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Sep 92 p 15

[Excerpt] Commenting on the shooting attack on his home at 1451 Santa Ana Street early this morning, [Colonel Gonzalez Rojas' lawyer] Hermes Rafael Saguier said: "I am certain the attackers are linked to stolen-car smugglers, who have great power in our country. I believe this attack is directly connected to my defense of Col. Gonzalez Rojas and those affected by the charges of car theft and smuggling through the Chaco region." [passage omitted]

Argentine Envoy Concerned About Stolen Cars

PY2609141092 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Sep 92 p 9

[Text] After a meeting yesterday with President Rodriguez, Ruben Cardozo, the Argentine ambassador to Paraguay, stated that he had conveyed to Rodriguez the concern of President Carlos Menem's administration about the existence of gangs of car thieves stealing cars in Argentina and bringing them to Paraguay. Cardozo noted that President Rodriguez also expressed concern about the trafficking in vehicles.

Cardozo pointed out that there is an agreement between Argentina and Paraguay—signed by former Foreign Ministers Luis Maria Argana and Dante Caputo—on restitution of stolen cars. Cardozo said that this agreement remains in force and that both countries "are about to sign another agreement on the joint cooperation of both countries' public security forces." He explained that the aim of the establishment of a joint public security force is to check the spreading of gangs and contraband cars. Cardozo added that "our objective is to seize those Argentine cars brought illegally into Paraguay."

He underscored the fact that this joint body will enable both countries to curb drug trafficking, smuggling, and trafficking in babies, in addition to checking the smuggling and illegal marketing of cars.

ABC COLOR sought the opinion of Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche on this issue. He said that both Argentine and Paraguayan citizens must be held responsible for the car smuggling affair. He pointed out that "if Paraguay is reputed to be a haven for stolen cars, it is precisely because cars are stolen either in Argentina or Brazil and then brought here."

General Elections Planned 9 May 1993

PY2809143892 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Sep 92 p 8

[Excerpt] Resolution No. 7/92 of the Asuncion Electoral Court, which was released this morning, indicates that general elections will take place on 9 May 1993. The new president, vice president, [departmental] governors, and members of the Departmental Boards will emerge from these general elections.

This measure follows Article 4 of the Constitution, which deals with transitory rules and regulations. Article 4 authorizes the Court to establish the election date between 15 April and 15 May 1993. [passage omitted]

Bridge To Be Built Between Paraguay, Brazil

PY2809150992 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Sep 92 p 11

[Report from regional bureau]

[Excerpt] Foz do Iguacu, Brazil—General Porfirio Ruiz Diaz, retired, the Paraguayan public works and communications minister, and Afonso Camargo Netto, the Brazilian transport and communications minister, have signed an agreement for the construction of a second bridge between the two countries. They also agreed to create a joint commission to carry out the task.

The two ministers met at the Don Pedro II hotel in this town on the border of the two countries. Authorities from the towns of Ciudad del Este and Presidente Franco [Paraguay], and from the city of Foz do Iguacu and the state of Parana also participated in the meeting.

Under the agreement signed by the two ministers, the construction of a second bridge is necessary due to the increased flow of traffic and people over the Friendship Bridge which unites the border towns of Ciudad del Este and Foz do Iguacu. [passage omitted]

Removal of 3d Corps Commander Explained

PY2809151292 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 26 Sep 92 p 10

[Text] Colonel Herminio Pinanez, general assistant to the Army commander, on the morning of 26 September clarified a report on the removal of Division General Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena from the post of commander of the 3d Army Corps, based in Mariscal Estigarribia, Chaco.

"Such removal does not happen, it is simply a routine replacement due to Balbuena's trip to Taiwan," Pinanez said, thus denying a report that surfaced this morning.

Balbuena has been invited by the Taiwanese Government and General Staff to participate in a seminar that will last some 10 days. Balbuena will travel this afternoon.

Brigadier General Galo Longino Escobar will replace Balbuena as commander of the 3d Corps.

"Escobar will assume the post of stopgap commander [comandante accidental], a name that is used for this type of replacement, therefore no one has been fired, and no change is planned," Pinanez said.

Peru

Agreement for UN Election Observers Signed

PA2909162492 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The UN observers mission that will supervise the elections for the Democratic Constituent Congress will be given the guarantees it requires. An agreement on the privileges and immunities that its members will enjoy has been signed in Washington by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Minister-Adviser Pablo Portugal, Peruvian charge d'affaires to the OAS. The mission reportedly will be made up of 120 people.

Baena has asked OAS member countries to contribute the necessary funds to finance this mission to Peru.

Presidency Minister Lau Kong Resigns

PA3009035292 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0335 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Presidency Minister Jorge Lau Kong has resigned. Lau Kong, who assumed office in May, presented his resignation to President Alberto Fujimori.

Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente has denied that the government made an official statement regarding Lau Kong's resignation. The reasons for the resignation have not yet been reported officially. It was said unofficially, however, that Lau Kong resigned to participate in the elections for the Constituent Congress.

Government Issues New Counterterrorism Decree

PA2909162592 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The government issued a decree on 27 September introducing new changes to laws for crimes of treason. The changes include the possibility of holding an arrested person in the hands of the police 15 additional days to facilitate the investigation. According to Decree 25-744, which introduces changes to the country's criminal laws for cases of treason and which was published in EL PERUANO on 27 September, the 15-day period to hold a person accused of terrorism, as established by law, could be extended for an equal period of time if ordered by the police.

The new decree now prevents soldiers or those who may have participated in the police operation from being witnesses during the preliminary investigations or during the trial.

It also prevents defense lawyers from defending more than one terrorist at a time during any stage in the process, except those who are court-appointed defense lawyers.

In addition to being isolated in a prison cell during the first year of arrest, the detainee will have to work for the remainder of his sentence. In Abimael Guzman's case, this should be for the rest of his life.

Finally, the decree legalizes confiscations made by the police by establishing that any personal property or money that is confiscated will have to be made available to the Counterterrorism National Directorate.

[Begin Attorney General Daniel Espichan Tumay recording] I believe this is a tremendously beneficial measure because at last these criminals will have to compensate the state and the country for all the damage they have caused. It is important for citizens to know this. A regimen of visitation rights has been implemented for terrorists. An inmate will only be able to receive one visit per month by a duly registered relative for a maximum of 30 minutes through a visiting room window. They will not even have direct contact. There are a number of measures that are being implemented that I believe will yield excellent results. [end recording]

Preparations for Guzman's Trial Continue

PA2909134792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman will be tried severely and in accordance with current legislation. His trial practically began with his transfer to naval jurisdiction. He will be investigated and eventually sentenced by a military court.

A military court comprised under the principle of faceless judges will be responsible for trying the Shining Path leader, who is now in custody at El Callao Naval Base. The Navy will be responsible for the trial primarily because it was the branch on duty at the War Council when Abimael Guzman was arrested. Consequently, the second judicial zone will have 10 days to conduct an investigation.

The court will sentence him once the investigation is carried out and his thick file is examined. It is taken for granted that the prisoner's lawyer will appeal the ruling so the case will be transferred to a higher authority, meaning the War Council.

Once this is done, the Council will have 20 days to issue a new ruling. The defense's only opportunity is to file for an annulment; and the file would then be sent to the Supreme Military Council for a definitive ruling within five days.

The procedure must be applied both to Abimael Guzman and the other central committee members who are now at the Naval Base—Maria Pantoja, Elena Iparraguirre, and Laura Zambrano, alias Comrade Meches. The same applies to those who are reportedly in custody at the 8th Airborne Group—Carlos Inchaustegui, Maritza Garrido, Zenon Walter Vargas, alias Comrade Arturo, Roberto Pizarro, and Toribio Valerio Gonzalez.

Decree 25744 published by EL PERUANO on 27 September states that Abimael Guzman must spend a whole year completely isolated in a cell. He must first do forced labor to compensate the country. This has been decreed

by amendments to Decree 25659, which includes guidelines concerning the crime of treason to the homeland. Abimael Guzman and his other comrades will not be able to enjoy the benefits stipulated in the Penal Code, including partial release [semi libertad], suspended sentence [dos por uno], and parole.

According to the regulations in effect since 14 August 1992 regarding visits to prisoners sentenced for terrorism, the Shining Path leader only has the right to receive two relatives per month, and each relative can only stay 30 minutes. His relatives, if he has any, will be able to enjoy this right by requesting a specific identification card that is only good for three months.

Fujimori on Guarantees for Shining Path Deserters

PA3009132692 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0212 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori asserted on 29 September that desertions are taking place within Shining Path ranks. He also said the government will provide all the necessary guarantees through a decree on repentance to those youths who want to desert but are afraid to do so. During statements given in Acoya District, Jauja Province, Fujimori categorically said the government will not talk with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA].

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Desertions are taking place with what you could describe as mistrust on the behalf of the Shining Path members. We calculate, however, a sizable number is willing to desert and stop perpetrating attacks. Many of these youths have realized that the Shining Path will lead them nowhere, so we must now attract these young terrorists and give them confidence they will be protected. The Armed Forces have provided the necessary protection on many occasions. We have printed pamphlets explaining the repentance process—the protection the government will give them and its advantages. We must emphasize they will suffer absolutely no imprisonment if they truly repent.

[Unidentified Reporter] Mr. President, how many have deserted?

[Fujimori] Evidently, Shining Path desertions are not taking place en masse—for the time being—but the MRTA is practically suffering a collapse.

[Reporter] Mr. President, since most of the MRTA members are causing this disintegration, will the government consider the possibility of participating in the dialogue they once proposed?

[Fujimori] No. I proposed it in due time. The possibility is no longer feasible. Instead, the government has issued a proposal for desertion and repentance, with guarantees they will not be sent to prison.

[Reporter] Is this definite, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] This is definite and the desertions are talking place. There is no need for a dialogue. All they have to do is put down their weapons. We have captured most of the MRTA and Shining Path leaders so we are not in a position to receive these deserters. [end recording]

'Iron Lady' Behind Shining Path's Guzman

PY3009132992

[Editorial Report] Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 17 September publishes on page A13 under the heading "An Iron Lady Behind Guzman" a 325-word article on Elena Albertina Iparraguirre Revoredo, second in command of the Shining Path. The report says Iparraguirre Revoredo, 50, is an energetic and strong-willed person. Not only does she command great political clout within the Shining Path—second only to Abimael Guzman—thus having a say in the group's decision-making process, but she also is in charge of Abimael Guzman's personal schedule.

According to intelligence reports, her unconditional support for Guzman—at a time when feuding factions within the Maoist organization brought about discord among the top leaders—earned her the title of successor to Augusta La Torre, the notorious "Comrade Norah" who was Guzman's wife. When La Torre died in 1991, Iparraguirre succeeded her in both the Shining Path leadership and in Guzman's heart, according to the report.

Now that Iparraguirre is being held in custody at the Counterterrorism Directorate, Dincote, in a cell next to Guzman, she continues to look after him. According to a Dincote officer in charge of the prison's security, she even decides at what time Guzman will have his meals.

The report adds that Iparraguirre holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and her late husband, Francisco Alarco Larrabure, was the founder of the People's Intellectual Group, GIP. GIP intellectuals opened an undergraduate school called Cesar Vallejo, where a group of leading Shining Path members recently was arrested.

Venezuela

Defense Minister on Recent Attacks, Security

PA2909180792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1559 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Interview with Defense Minister General Ivan Jimenez by correspondent Carlos Jose Monzon at Miraflores Palace; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Defense Minister General Ivan Jimenez stated that constitutional guarantees will be suspended. [sentence as heard] He added that the situation in the country is absolutely normal.

[Monzon] What is the situation in the country? There are rumors that guarantees could be suspended. Is this true?

[Jimenez] I have no information to that effect. I do not know anything about a possible suspension of guarantees.

[Monzon] How would you describe the situation in the country? Would you say it is calm?
[Jimenez] Aside from the grenade attack on the house of former President Lusinchi, the attack on Deputy Antonio Rios, and the attack against a Navy lieutenant in Ciudad Bolivar on the evening of 28 September, everything is absolutely normal.

[Monzon] Has the Army been confined to quarters?
[Jimenez] No, personnel have not been confined to quarters.

[Monzon] How will the Armed Forces react if these attacks continue?
[Jimenez] Our position will be the same as in the past; that is, to try to avoid these attacks and take all possible security measures.

[Monzon] Will the decree creating security zones in various cities of the country mean some form of confinement to quarters or militarization of the largest cities?
[Jimenez] Absolutely not. This is something we have been doing for the past five or six years, as this is included in the Security and Defense Law. This has nothing to do with what is happening right now.

[Monzon] Is the communique stating that the person who perpetrated the attack on Rios is not involved with the Bolivarian Movement true?
[Jimenez] I do not know. You would have to ask those who wrote the communique.

[Monzon] Do you know anything about officer (Oteicha)?
[Jimenez] We do not have any information on him.

[Monzon] What is the name of the person who attacked the lieutenant?
[Jimenez] I reserve that information, which I just received.

[Monzon] [Question indistinct]
[Jimenez] In Ciudad Bolivar.

[Monzon] How was the attack perpetrated?
[Jimenez] The vehicle in which he was traveling was shot at on the evening of 28 September.

[Monzon] Was he injured?
[Jimenez] He sustained minor injuries.

[Monzon] Did the group that attacked the lieutenant identify itself?
[Jimenez] No, he was traveling in his car, was shot at, and he does not know the identity of the attackers.

[Monzon] Will new meetings be held to implement new security measures? Are you thinking about holding a meeting with the High Military Command to adopt new measures?

[Jimenez] We always meet, not to adopt measures, but to analyze the situation. We adopt the necessary measures based on the situation.

[Monzon] [Words indistinct] the country is experiencing following the attacks on Deputy Antonio Rios and acts of violence. What is the view of the Armed Forces?
[Jimenez] The Armed Forces believe this could be part of a nationwide escalation. We had a report that the MG Ranch in Anzoategui and Sucre was robbed last weekend, possibly by members of the Red Flag guerrilla group. We are searching the area to try to locate them. This could be part of the process that is taking place in the country.

[Monzon] What is the MG ranch?
[Jimenez] That is the name of the ranch.

[Monzon] Is there a chararistic common to all these acts of violence?
[Jimenez] I think that they all disrupt public order in the country.

[Monzon] Do you believe urban guerrilla cells have been formed?
[Jimenez] We do not have any information on this. We are working with the intelligence services to try to ascertain if urban cells exist.

Calls Situation 'Normal'

PA3009035892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez denied that constitutional guarantees will be suspended. He also said the security areas created in different cities throughout the country do not mean that the Armed Forces will be restricted to their garrisons.

After a meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez at the Miraflores Presidential Palace, Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez said that, besides the attack against Antonio Rios, the grenade thrown at former President Lusinchi's home, and the attack on a frigate lieutenant in Ciudad Bolivar on 28 September, the country's situation is completely normal.

Despite this normal situation, the minister did not rule out the possibility that these violent acts that have taken place in the capital could be extended to a national level.

[Begin recording] [Jimenez] I believe they have the common purpose of disturbing the peace in the country.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think urban guerrilla cells have already been formed?

[Jimenez] We have no information on this. We are working with the intelligence services to try to find out whether or not it is true that those cells exist. [end recording]

Guyana

Reports, Comment on 5 Oct General Elections

Opposition Notes Misprinted Ballots

FL2609180492 Bridgetown CANA in English 1701 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 26, CANA—Campaigning for Guyana's October 5 general election was in high gear Saturday, despite complaints about misprinted ballot papers. The complaints have come from the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), which for the poll has submitted a list of PPP candidates and names from a "civic" group. The PPP said electoral officials omitted the word "civic" from the ballot papers, giving the impression the list comprised just PPP members.

Project director of the independent Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB), Clairmont Lye, hinted Guyana's election may have to be further postponed if the matter is not resolved before more than 6,000 members of the disciplined services cast ballots Monday.

"If they (the elections commission) leave it as it is, we could go to the polls and at some later date, any member of the public, or any other political party could challenge the results in court if it is not resolved now," Lye told CANA. "I'm saying it has not been properly resolved because there are several legal opinions which hold that the ballot as it exists right now is not valid." PPP officials say the law states the party title and initials on the ballot papers must be the same as those submitted on nominations day.

The Elections Commission issued a four-paragraph statement assuring the party's supporters a vote for the initials PPP will be counted as a vote for the PPP/civic slate.

"In the preparation and printing of the ballots, the title and initials of the People's Progressive Party/civic list of candidates have been inadvertently shortened to "People's Progressive Party" and "PPP," leaving out the designation "civic," the commission admitted.

"The elections commission assures any elector who wishes to vote for the PPP/civic list that a properly marked vote for the initials "PPP" and the title "People's Progressive Party" will count as a vote for the PPP/civic list of candidates in both the national and regional elections." PPP sources told CANA the party found the commission's position inadequate.

Lye said: "The way we see it, the Elections Commission seems to have taken a course of expediency ahead of legality and we are very concerned if this was the case." He said to risk all the electoral gains achieved over the past two years because of this would be "irresponsible." The EAB director said political parties and the commission should take "proper legal counsel" since military voting could be pushed back by only two days—from Monday to Wednesday. He is suggesting the re-printing of the ballot paper, which he said is physically possible here in Guyana with the scrutiny of all political parties and the observer missions.

Commonwealth observer, Richard Nzerem, agreed the issue could be challenged in court if the PPP wins the election.

Committee Advises Postponement

FL2809144092 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] More protests are being made by opposition groups in Guyana as the date for general elections in the Republic draws nearer. The Guyanese electorate will be going to the polls next Monday, 5 October. Members of the security services, however, will be casting their votes today. A report from Guyana yesterday says the Elections Commission met with representatives of opposition groups who are protesting against certain arrangements being made for the elections.

One of the latest protest statements comes from the independent Electoral Advisory Committee. It is concerned about the voter instructions issued by the ruling People's National Congress party. The committee is also worried about the implications of erroneous ballot papers. The Electoral Advisory Committee, which is working closely with nongovernment organizations, says it might be better to postpone the elections rather than face the consequences of legal action after 5 October.

Government Accused of 'Incompetence'

FL2909155292 Bridgetown CANA in English 1302 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 29, CANA—The opposition People's Progressive Party, campaigning for an October 5 general election, has been accusing the government of incompetence.

At one rally just outside the capital, Georgetown, PPP and "civic" platform speakers said the People's National Congress (PNC) government had presided over 28 years of hardship for the republic of 751,000 people.

"Today, we are having people from all walks of life who are totally fed up with the PNC government because they have not brought anything to the Guyanese nation," PPP central executive member, Indra Chanderpaul, said.

PPP leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, said the PNC has wrecked the country, denigrated Guyana's name, and allowed Guyanese to be insulted and humiliated in other countries, especially those of the Caribbean.

He said Guyana was highly rated in the Caribbean when the PPP was in power, from 1957 to 1964, and the PPP would restore the dignity of Guyana and its people when it returned to power.

Last week the electoral campaign was dominated by news of faulty ballot papers.

Monday's main activity was the voting of military personnel, under the watchful eyes of international observers. Whistle-stop meetings were expected to begin in earnest Tuesday.

'Regional Alert' Issued

FL2909194092 Bridgetown CANA in English 1825 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 29, CANA—The human rights network, Caribbean Rights on Tuesday issued what it called a "regional alert" on the conduct of Guyana's elections. In a press statement, the Barbados-based network that represents eight national affiliates across the region, said there were too many "disturbing developments" as Guyana prepares for next Monday's presidential, parliamentary, and regional elections.

It said that it considered it "necessary to alert the governments and representative organisations of the Caribbean to pay serious attention to reports coming out of Guyana on flawed arrangements for the coming October 5 general elections."

First, said Caribbean Rights, there was the "surprising disclosure last week, confirmed by the Guyana Elections Commission, of wrongly printed ballot papers." It said that "no satisfactory official explanation has been given for this grave error" and that "for all the assurances given, there hangs the ominous threat of likely post-election petitions to the courts."

Wrongly printed ballot papers for promised free and fair elections, said Caribbean Rights, had now been compounded by "serious procedural problems on Monday, September 28, when the Army, police, and other sections of the disciplined services voted." The Elections Commission has confirmed that voting had to be extended by over five hours in some polling stations, said Caribbean Rights. At police headquarters in Georgetown, polling had been extended beyond the official closing time at 6 pm. to facilitate voting by an estimated 6,000 members of the disciplined services, the human rights watchdog said.

"The disturbing aspect of this development", declared the human rights body, "is that if in Georgetown, with all the easy-to-access facilities, there were so many procedural difficulties hampering smooth and efficient voting by the disciplined services, then there would be justifiable anxiety over what may happen on election day itself when over 300,000 eligible voters are expected to cast their ballots."

Further, it said, there have been reports, confirmed by party agents and members of the Elections Commission, of stamping of ballot papers in one place when such ballots should correctly be stamped twice.

"The Elections Commission, we have been advised, is still facing much difficulties at this very late stage in the selection of approved election officials to work at the polling stations and divisions," Caribbean Rights said.

"The fairness of the October 5 elections would depend very much on the assistance and supervision such approved elections officials could provide," it added.

The regional human rights network said it wished "the very best" for the Elections Commission in its efforts to "prevent the sabotaging of the system it is trying to have in place in time for Monday's vote." The Elections Commission would have to be very firm and vigilant in order to ensure that the elections are free and fair, it asserted.

Caribean rights also expressed "deep regret" about not being granted the required official permission from the president of Guyana to observe the elections. It explained that it had made such a request since June last year, when it indicated that it was prepared to do so in co-operation with other well-known and well-respected representative non-government regional organisations.

Observers on Services Voting

FL2909232892 Bridgetown CANA in English 2300 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 29, CANA—The Commonwealth observer mission tasked with monitoring Guyana's first elections in seven years, says the voting of the disciplined services here Monday was fair, but inefficiently conducted.

"By an large, it went reasonably well. There were technical problems.... There were training problems and these we will be discussing with the Elections Commission.... There were delays that were excessive in some polling stations," team leader, David Peterson, told reporters at a news conference here Tuesday.

"If one uses this as a dry run for the general election, one would want to be better organised in some of those large polls to move the lines through faster.

"We thought that a number of people were standing there for an unacceptably long period of time," Peterson, the former premier of the Canadian Province of Ontario, said.

He added: "Based on what we know to this point in time... things went pretty well."

Peterson said the sensitivity of previous elections had forced the introduction of too many checks and balances, including the placing of 11 party agents in stations. They might have slowed down the process, he said.

"I guess some lessons were learnt yesterday and hopefully it has got to be absolutely total integrity in this system, but maybe it could be speeded up as well," the Commonwealth team head said. But he said it should not mean the same kinks would appear in Monday's national and regional elections.

"Let's not forget that this was a limited vote of the disciplined forces.... They were concentrated in certain areas and you had a major profusion of people going in early in the morning and going all day.

"I suspect, in a normal election, people tend to trickle in during the course of the day and spread out, so, I am not saying there won't be problems, but with any luck, given it is a different kind of election, there will be less and with luck, the elections commission will have learned a few things here that they will be able to apply in a general elections.

"It was just a little inefficient," Peterson told reporters.

The former Ontario premier denied there were widespread problems, and said the mission was doing the best it could despite limited resources and manpower.

"I think that we do add something to the process and I think that between us and the Carter Center, as the resources are deployed on election day, I think people can have some confidence that any discrepancies will be caught," Peterson said.

He suggested more ballot boxes and more polling agents be used to speed up the process. "There's no question there were some problems," he acknowledged.

More than 6,000 members of Guyana's military cast ballots yesterday, one week ahead of general elections.